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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

CONGREGATIONAL UNIONISM. No. IV.

SACERDOTALISM.

EVERY position in life has its temptations—every distinct class, its peculiar and characteristic habits. The Christian ministry is no exception—and they who are exclusively occupied in ministering sacred instruction to other minds, and in presiding over small spheres of ecclesiastical government, are not more exempt than other men from the influence of an *esprit de corps*. There is, of course, amongst ministers as great a variety of individual character as may be found in any other separate body of men—here, as elsewhere, a few rise superior to the common tendencies of the class; but it is not the less true that the large majority of them exhibit strong traces of a family likeness—that, in few words, and those plain ones, they will necessarily partake more or less of the spirit of "the cloth."

They are rulers. Each, within the province of his own church, is engaged in expounding the law of Christ, and in seeing to its due execution. Their teaching is properly dogmatic—their authority, virtually beyond appeal. The pulpit is shielded from the intrusion of gainsayers—and the pastor, if able to govern himself, and tolerably conversant with human nature, may always secure submission to his will.

This position serves, naturally enough, to foster habits of the imperative order, and to impress upon the mind, altogether unconscious of the process, rather exalted notions of what is due to office. It is quite clear that, without imputing blame to the class, one may expect to see, as the result of surrounding circumstances upon character, a leaning towards authority, as such—a surprise, we will not say impatience, at contradiction—a disposition to undervalue individual independence—a proneness to regard as personally disparaging a practical course which runs counter to their own strong opinions—a wish, on many matters not falling directly within their jurisdiction, to be consulted, and, when consulted, to be implicitly deferred to—a readiness to uphold "the brethren"—less fear of ministerial encroachments than of lay insubordination—in short, a tinge, in all that they project and do, of a modified sacerdotalism. Such we affirm to be the tendency, such the danger, of the pastoral relationship among independents—and since, according to all natural laws, it *must* be so, it is the part of wisdom to beware of nurturing it, by artificial means, into prominent development.

These professional peculiarities are comparatively harmless so long as the display of them is confined within the limits of individual action. They become seriously mischievous, however, in all cases in which organisation gives them full scope for expression in a concentrated form. Even in county associations, the object of which is truly laudable and clearly defined, dependent churches have too frequent occasion to lament that business is so exclusively under ministerial control. But assuredly, a comprehensive union, which embraces the entire kingdom, the whole purpose of which it is impossible to specify, and the influence of which has a constant tendency to increase, constitutes an organised power—a compact ecclesiastical ma-

chinery—which, under the direction of a large preponderance of ministers, must speedily reduce lay independence to atoms. A corporate body, it is well known, is less alive to its responsibilities, and less watchful over its known failings, than is an individual. Banded together, men of the same habits, modes of thought, and characteristics of feeling, are far less upon their guard against giving play to the *esprit de corps*, than when they act singly. And although, in the Congregational Union, there will naturally be, for some time to come, a jealousy lest the organisation encroach upon the rights of its individual clerical members, there exists in its constitution no efficient guarantee against the invasion of the independence of churches.

The force of this objection seems to have struck the minds of the founders of the Union. In a memorial read at Norwich to the meeting assembled there in the autumn of last year, the following passage occurs: "To obviate the suspicion or danger of undue ministerial combination and influence, the deacons of every church in the Union, a body in the aggregate far more numerous than the ministers, are equally with the ministers entitled to attend, and speak, and vote, at every meeting of the Union, whether delegated or not." We believe this provision will obviate suspicion. We are sure it cannot obviate danger. And for these reasons amongst others.

The churches whose independence may possibly be compromised by the organisation, have no representatives of their own selection. In numerous cases, as we know, they are never asked their consent to join the Union—in few cases, we are persuaded, are they consulted as to their views of matters pending before it. Power they have none—and, for anything to the contrary provided by its constitution, whatever is done by the Union, may be done not only without their acquiescence, but without their knowledge.

Again, deacons, for the most part, are men in business, little able to bear the expense of travelling, not very likely to devote two or three successive days twice in the year to public objects the pressing importance of which they do not perceive, and least of all disposed to take an active interest in matters which they are too apt to regard as lying within the special province of ministers. The best method, however, of testing this check upon ministerial combination is a reference to facts; and we gather, from the reports of the Congregational Union, a confirmation of what, in the absence of positive evidence, we should have conjectured, that its meetings are invariably composed of an overwhelming majority of men sustaining, or looking forward to, the pastoral office.

But, were the proofs the other way, we should yet demur to the efficiency of the guarantee. Men in office, whether ministerial or diaconal, are predisposed to sympathy on one head—the exaltation of authority above liberty, of subordination above independence. Of course, we would not be understood to affirm, that this rule holds good without numerous exceptions—we are stating what appear to us to be natural tendencies—and we say that all history testifies to the conclusion, that the liberties of the church cannot safely be entrusted to ecclesiastical office-bearers.

Looking, then, to the Congregational Union as it is—and dismissing, as beside the mark, all consideration of what it *might be*, when human nature ceases to be human nature—we resolve it into this. It is power—moral power—virtually irresponsible power—put into the hands of the body of independent ministers, that it may be brought to bear upon their churches, in furtherance of such objects as they may deem desirable. If, therefore, by the tone of their proceedings—if, by the authority of their publications—if, by the tendency of their acts—the church gradually comes to be identified as the ministers of it—religious functionaries elevated into a separate order—lines of demarcation drawn about them, guarding them from unauthorised intruders—and the decisions at which they arrive, expected to be binding upon well-regulated Christian societies—if, we observe, all this should come to pass, then will the fruit borne, correspond, as usual, with the seed sown. No one but the ignorant will have the smallest right to be surprised. Similar causes have heretofore produced similar results—and ecclesiastical power of any kind, committed to the discretion of a ministerial combination, has ever been found in-

compatible with long-continued independence and freedom.

Nor is this the only danger. To every organisation, as we have said, there must be a central power: all mechanism requires something equivalent to a main spring. Two or three commanding, active, influential minds will originate, push forward, and control all movements of importance. The Union, within certain limits, will be *their* lever for raising all their schemes into notice and authority. Such schemes may be wise or unwise, beneficial or injurious; but two things respecting them may be pronounced with all but absolute certainty—that they will *not* stand or fall exclusively by their merits, and that they *will* embody more or less the principle of centralisation. Thus we shall have, in process of years, in the denomination, a gradation of ranks which independency professes to repudiate—a laity without power—deacons with nominal rights, which they can never combine to use—a sacred order insisting upon the necessity and validity of their ordination—and bishops without a title, and without the responsibility which a title imposes. This result we take to be genuine sacerdotalism.

THE MAYNOOTH SCHEME—WHAT IS IT? AND SHALL IT BE?

ADDRESSED TO NONCONFORMISTS.

MEN AND BRETHREN—Although the scheme of the Prime Minister of this country, with regard to the catholic college of Maynooth, is not fully unfolded, yet sufficient intimation has been given of its nature to warrant alarm and induce a determined resistance. The wily project is half concealed under delusive appearances and general terms. We do not at present see the noxious thing in its whole length, but we know, by what we do perceive of the smoothness of its skin, the form of its head, and the tortuosity of its movements, that it is of the serpent tribe. We see it creeping forth from the hidden recesses of political expediency; and we must instantly aim a deadly blow, or it will strike at the heart of our liberties.

Sir Robert Peel has distinctly declared it to be his intention to introduce a bill into parliament for the purpose of tripling the amount of the existing grant to the Roman catholic college of Maynooth, rendering that grant permanent, instead of its being "subject to annual discussion," and for the establishment of new academical institutions in Ireland.

Is not this infatuation? Here is an attempt at urging on the nation to proceed in a course directly the reverse of that in which the intelligence of the age is advancing—to go backward, instead of forward, in the career of improvement—to extend, instead of exterminating, a monstrous evil—to nourish and cherish a pernicious plant, instead of rooting it up—to give increasing efficacy to the principle which, in the days of Constantine, poured its venomous poison into the fountains of religion, and has impregnated all the waters of the sanctuary in the European world—a principle that is working and will yet work till the purifying power of scriptural Christianity shall impel the river of the water of life through the worse than Augean stables of worldly hierarchies, and sweep away for ever their corrupt and fetid accumulations.

Of all the circumstances of peril and woe in which a nation can be placed, those are the most appalling when the guardians of our civil liberty interfere with the affairs of religion. Whether governments have opposed what they have chosen to pronounce error, by persecution, or supported what they thought fit to call truth, by patronage—the results have been mournfully, if not equally, detrimental. The paw of the bear may be deathful, whether it grasp in fondness, or crush in vengeance; and legislators must necessarily become wrongdoers, and injurious, whenever, either from motives of political policy or in the spirit of despotism, they intrude upon a sphere which belongs not to them, and from which they are warned off by more than human authority.

What have we (that is, the nation) to do with the endowment of the college of Maynooth—a seminary for the education of catholic priests?

Has the college of Maynooth any legal claim to be endowed by parliament? For, be it observed, that the proposal respects its endowment, or "the rendering the grant permanent, which is now the subject of annual discussion." For what purpose was a sum of between eight and nine thousand pounds originally bestowed by parliament, then under the influence of Mr Pitt? It was not to endow, but to establish, that institution, which is obvious from the words of the enactments, continually repeated (25th Geo. III., c. 21; 40th Geo. III., c. 85):—Sect. 10: "Any sum or sums of money, not exceeding £8,000 . . . shall and may be issued and paid by the commissioners of his Majesty's treasury, or any

three or more of them, towards establishing the said academy." At the time of the union, the following entry is made in the journals of the House:—"Feb. 25, 1800. Resolved—That it is the opinion of this committee, that a sum not exceeding £8,000 be granted to his Majesty towards defraying the charge of the full establishment of the Roman catholic seminary, for one year, to the 25th day of March, 1801."

The bestowment of money for one year constitutes no legal claim for its bestowment another; and annual grants for successive years, though uninterrupted (which in this case they have not been), constitute no absolute right with regard to the future, nor any reason why national charity should be transmuted into national patronage. It was a perfect delusion when the government suggested any grant in the first instance; and it is now an imposition, as well as a delusion, to pledge a triple amount, and in perpetuity, by so appropriating the taxes of the country. "When the Maynooth institution was first established," said the Duke of Wellington, then Sir A. Wellesley (in a debate, April 29, 1808), "it was not intended it should be maintained by the public purse. The memorial presented previously to the foundation of that establishment, prayed for a charter, in order that their funds might be better secured."*

Has the college of Maynooth any moral claim upon national patronage? Certainly not. There can be no moral claim arising out of the fact of the legislature having conceded catholic emancipation. To grant emancipation from the bondage of interdictions which precluded eligibility to secular offices on account of religion is one thing, and to afford direct support to a system of doctrine is another. As to catholics, I rejoice in their freedom. I would not touch a hair of their heads, or a fraction of their rights as men and as citizens. Let their consciences be free as mine, and free as air; but as to their system, deeming it to be erroneous and dangerous, framed to promote ecclesiastical despotism, to infringe on the prerogatives of man as an intellectual and moral being, and of Jesus Christ as the Lord of all, I repudiate and resist it—not, however, by the sword of the magistrate, but by the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

There is no moral claim on account of their poverty. This is no feeding the hungry or clothing the naked. They are already fed with the stores of worldly opulence, and are clothed in purple and fine linen. The grant, if anticipated, is anticipated chiefly by the catholics, doubtless, as a measure to secure their footing as an establishment—to identify them more closely with the state, and to prepare the way for an increased ecclesiastical and political influence. The Minister regards it, most probably, as a preliminary measure to the endowment of the catholic clergy of Ireland, by which our sagacious legislators, according to their own notions of religion, as established by law in England, will contrive to endow both truth and error as equally parts of the national faith. This, it is said, is to conciliate Ireland—yes, and to corrupt it too. No, it will not conciliate Ireland: a better seed than this must be sown. It is a political bowing down in the temple of Rimmon; it is a suicidal course to sharpen the intellectual weapons of Romanism against ourselves, and to aid in preparing the means of a nation's mental, moral, and religious degradation.

The endowment of the Maynooth college has been described as virtually an endowment of the Roman catholic religion, and this proceeding has been earnestly deprecated upon the ground of the inconsistency and absurdity of a protestant government endowing catholic doctrine. To support a college designed to educate some hundreds of priests for the dissemination of catholic doctrine, is truly an endowment of that religion by the state—a religion which is antagonistical to protestantism, to the right of private judgment, to the highest prerogatives of human reason, and which canonises bigotry and curses heretics. And most surely the politician who does this must be allowed the first place in the ecclesiastical chivalry of the nineteenth century.

But I appeal, now, to every genuine consistent nonconformist. On the second question it was my intention to ask—and existing circumstances demand that not we only, but every man of every creed, should seriously consider the answer—*What have we to do with the endowment of any religion at all?* The church-of-England-man may resist the proposed grant to Romanism on the plea, that "a protestant government ought not to endow catholic doctrine." To this we assent, only adding, *a fortiori*, a protestant government, or rather any government, ought to abstain from endowing any religious doctrine at all. Our objection is—not that the catholic religion is thus to be endowed, but that religion is to be endowed, or that the unhallowed principle of state endowments of religion is to be spread over a wider surface, instead of being utterly abandoned. The nonconformist objection to the endowment of the catholic faith is precisely the nonconformist objection to the endowment of the protestant faith; that is, to the endowment of religion by the state at all.

But it is said there is an essential difference between endowing a false religion and the true. There is a difference in the object, but not in the reason or principle. The catholic religion ought not to be endowed, says the episcopalian protestant, because it is false; but my religion ought to be endowed, because it is true. But who is to be the judge? In Rome, the terms of this statement will be exactly reversed. In Turkey or Arabia, in India or China, both the one and the other will be declared equally false, and the claim in those places will be on behalf

of another religion, distinct and opposite in character. And if governments, *quid* governments, possess the right to establish a national religion, the argument which would justify Mahometanism is as good in Turkey as that which would maintain a national faith in England. Besides, the dissenter might plead that he could object to the endowment of episcopalianism on the same ground on which he objects to the endowment of Romanism—namely, that error, not only in forms of worship, but in doctrine also, is endowed; for he can no more consent to the baptismal regeneration doctrine, or the doctrine of the absolution, or of the burial service of the church of England, than the advocates of the church of England can assent to transubstantiation, sacramental efficacy, and extreme unction.

It is, however, to the principle of a state endowment of religion that the dissenter objects; and by the dissenter I mean three millions of our countrymen. What, say the advocates of state churches, do you object to the endowment of true doctrine—to the establishment of Christianity itself? Undoubtedly. Let the doctrine to be endowed or patronised by the state be held to be true—let it be, if you please, our own doctrine—we object to its endowment by the state, for these, among other reasons, which I will simply state, without illustration, for the sake of brevity:—

1. It needs no endowment. Spiritual truth is mighty in its own omnipotence. Christianity was not endowed by its divine Author, though he could have built up, had he chosen, a hierarchy in a day, with all its mitres, monies, and pomps.

2. Religion is insusceptible of establishment by endowments; for it is a matter of conscience, and cannot, in fact, be a matter of coercion. The forms of religion only can be established; itself is too ethereal and too divine for human enforcements. Persons and liberties may be bound up by ecclesiastical systems, backed by temporal authority; but, like Paul in imprisonment, triumphant Christianity may exclaim, "The word of God is not bound!"

3. All establishments of religion generate a spirit hostile to its very nature, by legalising exclusiveness, stimulating animosities, substituting the nominal for the real, producing that hideous progeny of priestly dominance, called toleration, and fostering a persecuting bigotry.

4. All endowments necessarily tend to the corruption of religion, and the ruin of its spirituality.

5. The Christian religion cannot become universal, till it re-possesses its primitive character, when it walked forth in the persons of Christ and his apostles, in undoubted majesty and purity—smote with its light, and not with a sword, the idolatries of the world—and, spite of fires and furies, triumphed throughout Asia Minor over the principalities of earth and the powers of hell.

Nonconformists of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales! it is time to be up and doing again. Political power is beginning to stretch forth its audacious hand to prop up error, and facilitate its wider extension. It is leagued with a cunning that never sleeps, however we may sleep; and with a determination that never falters in the pursuit of its favourite schemes, either of defence or of aggression, however we may falter in the adoption of measures of resistance and counteraction. Fresh from the educational struggle, with our laurels about us, let us not whisper complaint, but thunder opposition. While our senators are preparing to march to Maynooth, let us march to parliament. Let us solemnly and unitedly remonstrate against their movement. Let us demand of our representatives to keep to their proper vocation, to transact with diligence the business for which we elected them, the real business of the nation; and not to pursue the courses of a crooked policy, to try to correct their political blunders by an ecclesiastical patchwork of their pretences, gilded baits, and ignorant demonstrations. If we have a voice, let us lift it up in public meetings; if we have a heart, let us work together in righteous combinations; if we have a hand, let us sign, seal, and deliver congregational petitions, till the tables of the House groan beneath their weight, and the devisers of mischief quail at their meaning!

Hackney, March 31, 1845.

F. A. COX.

THE GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.

GREAT MEETING AT NORWICH.—The opinion which we expressed, some time since, that the opposition to this grant should be conducted separately by churchmen and dissenters, has been abundantly confirmed. The united meetings that have been already held have by no means answered the expectations of either party, nor have they at all given an adequate expression of the hearty and animated feeling which has been aroused on the subject from one end of the kingdom to the other. It could not be otherwise. The grounds of opposition are so distinct, and that of the churchmen so feeble, that the force of the dissenters' case was more than neutralised; it was smothered by its contact with that of the establishment. A fatal clog is imposed upon all the efforts of our church of England friends by the simple fact that it is as unjust, as contrary to Christian principle, and as opposed to common sense, to put our hands into the pockets of the Roman catholics, as for them to be allowed to extract money from our own. The principle of endowing one sect only is manifestly unjust; the ministerial proposition to endow all can, therefore, only be repelled by those who are prepared to contend for the endowment of none. The opposition of churchmen is unavailing; the ground must be occupied by dissenters alone. Norwich has set the example by a noble meeting, of which we furnish our readers with an ample report. Long before the proceedings com-

menced, the building was thronged with an audience such as only great and deeply exciting questions can assemble. Nor was the character of the proceedings unworthy the occasion. We have never witnessed a more powerful expression of public feeling—we might say, of public indignation. It brought back to our minds, in vivid colours, the recollection of the Factory bill agitation. There were the same earnest appeals by the speakers, the same instantaneous response by the hearers, the same deep, heartfelt, resolute intensity of feeling, on the part of all, against the measure itself, as well as against the principle of state-churchism, in which it originates. It is in such meetings as this that the power of public opinion is felt in its full force. It is by such meetings as this that Sir Robert Peel, supreme as he is in the House of Commons, may be kept in check. It is thus that this education scheme may be made to share the fate of Sir James Graham's project, and the dissenters be again the conservators of the liberty of the people.—*Norfolk News*.—We regret that it is out of our power to report the truly eloquent speeches delivered at the above-mentioned meeting, which was held on Thursday evening, at the Old Meeting house, Norwich. Thomas Brightwell, Esq., occupied the chair, and among the speakers were Messrs Alexander, Brock, Reed, and Wheller, ministers of the town; Edward Willett, Esq., and Joseph Geldart, Esq. The following extract from the concluding portion of Mr Reed's speech expresses the general tone of the meeting:—

The great principle of the present day appears to be the separation of the provinces of temporal and spiritual jurisdiction. As in politics, it was found essential to separate the executive from the legislative departments, so it seems essential that the intermixture of the state and church should no longer continue [applause]. Therefore, by all the bitter fruits of this upas-tree, which has for ages overshadowed and blasted Christianity by its shade; by the dark catalogue of crimes which the church would never have perpetrated, had it possessed no secular power; by the atrocious injustice, which the state would never have committed, but for its usurpation of spiritual authority; by the long night of centuries, in which the very essence of Christianity was transmuted, and by all the glorious fruits which, in that period, she might have been expected to mature; by the glorious bursts of light which gleamed out to astonish mankind, whenever, for the shortest space, the obstruction was but partially removed; by the failure of every successive effort at reformation, which has fallen short of separating the temporal from the spiritual—by the abstract distinction which essentially disunites them—by the pious example of our ancestors, who sealed this cause with their blood, and handed it to us, with a charge to deal bravely by it [applause]—by the signs of our times, and the upheaving of society at every point, through the struggle of these elements, yearning to be mutually free—by the hope of revived, of disenthralled Christianity, that shall at length smile on the world with the light of heaven—by the unity of true Christians, now set at variance by this apple of discord—by the broad eternal distinction between the believer and the world, which is confounded and obliterated by this promiscuous system—by the sole theocracy of the ever-blessed Jehovah—by the undivided allegiance of Christians to their King and Head, the Lord Jesus—by the sacred gifts of that Spirit, which are not to be purchased with money, nor dispensed at their option by worldly men; yea, by the purity of the church, and by the evangelisation of the world, I implore you to seek the full liberation of Christianity from civil interference with religious matters—to resist the further mingling of church and state by any fresh establishments, and to aim, by peaceful means, at the disestablishment of all present hierarchies, until the world shall rejoice in an era of perfect liberty of conscience and freedom of religion.

At the close of the proceedings, Mr Brock said that these meetings would probably be kept up for a week, or perhaps a fortnight—every night somewhere or other, perhaps week after week—and he hoped that the people would make a point of attending, that the friends of liberty might have a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull all together. The following are the resolutions passed by the meeting:—

"That this meeting, having been informed of the origin of the grant from parliament to the Roman catholic college of Maynooth, and having been informed, moreover, of the intentions of her Majesty's government concerning an alteration in that grant, resolves that its most strenuous resistance be offered to any further contribution of the public money for the support of the aforesaid college, believing that all such contributions, to whomsoever made, are pre-eminently calculated to embarrass the legislature, to injure the commonwealth, and to bring religion into public contempt."

"That, with a view of averting the evils now threatening this nation by the formal endowment, from the public funds, of Roman catholic institutions, this meeting earnestly recommends the immediate adoption of all constitutional modes of opposition to the measures of the government, such as remonstrances with the Queen's ministers, communications with members of the legislature, petitions to the imperial parliament, and, if necessary, memorials to the throne itself."

A memorial to Sir R. Peel, and an address to the catholics themselves, calling upon them to refuse the proffered bribe, was subsequently agreed to. The meeting was an open one, but the utmost harmony characterised its proceedings.

In consequence of a numerous signed requisition from the inhabitants, the mayor of Reading convened a town's meeting, which was held on Thursday afternoon, at the Town hall. It was attended by the principal clergy and dissenting ministers of the neighbourhood. Amongst those present were Dr Cowan, Mr S. Chase, Mr R. Rhodes, Mr Kimber, the deputy town-clerk; Alderman Rickford; Mr J. Ball, vicar of St Lawrence; Mr J. C. Grainger, vicar of St Giles's; Mr C. J. Goodhart, incumbent of St Mary's chapel; Messrs W. Legg, and S. Curwen, independent ministers of Reading; Mr J. Statham, baptist minister; Mr W. Richards, church clergyman; and Alderman Billing. The resolutions

and speeches were, for the most part, founded on opposition to popery as such.

In Manchester a desire was shown by dissenters to coalesce with the church party in opposition to the proposed grant to Maynooth, but the latter worded their petitions in such a way as to preclude any such co-operation. Mr Hugh Stowell, A.M., thinks, and wisely, in our opinion, "that the church and dissenters do best to act separately."

EXETER.—A meeting was held at the New London inn, to oppose the increased grant to Maynooth. John Bacon, Esq., presided, and addressed the meeting at some length, as did also the Rev. Mr Hocking, of Dartmouth. The speakers were very fierce in denouncing the grant of protestant money to uphold popery, but none of the speakers denounced the practice of taking papist money to support protestantism.—*Western Times*.

GRANT TO MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.—The dissenters in Ipswich have petitioned the legislature against any further grant, on the broad principle that "no religion ought to be supported with money from the public purse."—*Ipswich Express*.

We are glad to find that the *Morning Advertiser* is lending its powerful aid in denouncing the proposed addition to the Maynooth grant on the only sound principle on which it can be resisted. "We oppose the grant to Maynooth," says that journal, "on the voluntary principle, and on no other; we oppose it, not to aid the whigs in embarrassing Sir Robert Peel, for we have no inclination to fight the battle of the whigs; we oppose it not from any feeling of hostility to the Roman Catholics of Ireland, who are injured greatly by being compelled to support a religion which they deem heretical; we oppose it simply because it cuts upon principle, and for that reason we shall continue, whatever may be said or written, to treat it with our most hearty and determined resistance. As the volunteers are the persons who ought to move on this important occasion, we hope they will be up and doing."

The opposition to the grant is fast extending itself, both among churchmen and dissenters. The Wesleyans have not yet done anything in the matter; but the *Watchman* says, "We trust that before our next publication arrangements will be made to call forth the declaration of the sentiments of the ministers and members of the Wesleyan body, in such a manner as may be most likely to forward the objects which, in common with their brethren of other evangelical denominations, they have so much at heart—viz., the preservation of protestantism." Our advertising columns will show the activity of the London dissenters. On Monday evening a public meeting was held at the parochial school rooms, Liverpool road, which was largely attended by the clergy, including the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, and Mr Daniel Wilson, the vicar of the parish. The resolutions were all of a "no popery" character. The *Morning Chronicle* and *Dublin Evening Post* are among the most zealous advocates of the proposed additional grant to Maynooth. The *Morning Post* thinks that this question will be the means of leading to a permanent coalition with the whig party.

The presbytery of Newcastle, in connexion with the synod of the presbyterian church in England, have unanimously agreed to petition parliament against the proposed grant to the college of Maynooth. The baptists of Tuthill Stairs church, Newcastle, have already transmitted to Mr Ord, M.P., a petition against the government grant.—*Gateshead Observer*.

EDINBURGH.—A public movement is contemplated in this city, in reference to the progress of popery, and against the proposed government measure for increasing and perpetuating the endowment of Maynooth. Preliminary meetings of ministers and members of different evangelical denominations have been held with this view, and the arrangements are nearly completed, and may probably be announced in our next paper.

The town council of Edinburgh resolved, on Tuesday last, by 16 to 9, to petition parliament against "any grant of public money to Maynooth, or any other religious establishment or institution whatever," the petition to be intrusted to Mr Macaulay. The Lord Provost differed, because the grant would promote the tranquillity of Ireland. The following is a brief report of the discussion which took place on the subject:—

Dean of Guild Dick moved that the council petition parliament against "any grant of public money to Maynooth or any other religious establishment or institution whatever;" and that Mr Macaulay be requested to present the petition and support its prayer.

Mr Wilson seconded the motion.

The Lord Provost was disposed to agree with the motion, but would have liked some time to consider. The grant was not one to a religious establishment, but to a university; and, if they got grants for their own university and for others, he was not sure that they could object to the Catholics getting one too.

Mr Russell said that Maynooth was not a university, but only a college for the education of Roman Catholic priests.

Mr James Duncan said it was a different thing to tolerate a religion and to establish it.

Treasurer Thomson said he would support the motion but for the sting in the tail of it—"Or other religious establishments and institutions whatever."

Mr Neil would support the motion on the same grounds, and no other—that he would object to a similar grant to any protestant church in the country.

Mr John Wright, if he should stand alone, would divide the council as to retaining the "tail" of the motion. It was all very well for protestants proposing to keep their share of the public plunder, and objecting to the Roman Catholics getting some along with them; but he objected to the one as much as to the other. If government offered an addition of £50 to the theological chair in their own college, or a grant of money to

the Free church college, would the council object? No. He would place his opposition to the grant on a public principle, and not on a point of theology; and, if the Dean of Guild did not adhere to his motion as it stood, he would protest against it as sectarian. If there was to be a plundering of the public, let the Roman Catholics have their share.

The Lord Provost was very sorry he should differ from the great body of the council, but he thought it fair that the government should look to the peace and tranquillity of the empire; and, when they saw the exceedingly sore feeling in the minds of the Irish people—and he thought they had good grounds for feeling sore—he felt that, if a minister considered it would promote the tranquillity of the empire to give a sum to Roman Catholics as well as to others, he would not find great fault with any minister, whig or tory, who might take that step with the view of promoting peace and order. What would be the effects created on the minds of the seven millions of Irish on seeing town councils rise in opposition whenever this grant was proposed? If the motion was to stop at Maynooth, he would decidedly oppose it; but, even were it all retained, he had not made up his mind as to the propriety of adopting it.

Mr R. Grant would oppose the motion, and was in favour of the grant.

Mr Johnston doubted if this was not too high a price to pay even for the peace of Ireland. He thought the safest way would be to vote for the Dean's motion, "tail" and all [laughter].

Mr James Duncan thought Mr Wright had placed the matter in a proper view, and that it would be invidious to oppose the grant on any other ground than an opposition to all grants to religious bodies.

Mr Whyte opposed the motion.

Mr Melville would vote for the motion, but not for the "tail."

Mr Neil would insist on the retention of the clause against grants to all "other religious institutions."

Mr Melville.—But why include other institutions at all?

Mr Neil.—Because I want to include the Free Church [laughter].

Mr Dick moved that the motion be delayed. He could not support the motion; he could not say to the Irish that he would take himself what he could not give to them [hear, hear].

Mr Stark seconded the amendment. He was a dissenter and a voluntary, and as much opposed to popery as any one, but he wished time to consider.

The vote was then taken, delay or not delay, when the latter was carried by 16 to 9.

The motion was ultimately carried as it stood, without a division.

PROPOSED MOVEMENT IN GLASGOW.—A meeting of the Friendly Society of dissenting ministers in and around Glasgow, called by special circular, to consider the government proposal of permanently endowing the Roman Catholic college of Maynooth, was held in Greyfriars' session house yesterday (Friday). The Rev. R. Brodie, convener, occupied the chair. A long and harmonious conversation took place on the subject, the meeting unanimously concurring in condemning the appropriation of public money to the support of any religious party, and especially in denouncing the flagrant iniquity of a civil government endowing a college for the propagation of religious opinions which the members of that government professedly repudiate. Dr King directed the attention of the meeting to a similar proposal on the part of government to put on a more solid footing the *regium donum* enjoyed by the General Assembly of the presbyterian church in Ireland, and suggested the propriety of embracing in any memorial that might issue from the meeting, a testimony against any such misappropriation of the public money. After a friendly discussion a committee was appointed to consider what measures should be adopted by the dissenters of Glasgow, with a view of arresting the proposed grant to Maynooth, as well as of giving increased energy to the movement now going on in Scotland for the removal of religious tests in the universities. The committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr King, Rev. Wm Anderson, Rev. J. S. Taylor, and Rev. George Jeffrey, were instructed to prepare a report to be laid before an early meeting of the society, with the ultimate design of engaging the various dissenting congregations in Glasgow and its neighbourhood, in a united effort to urge upon parliament their views on the subject.—*Glasgow Examiner*.

At a meeting of the Glasgow presbytery of the established church of Scotland on Tuesday, a petition to both houses of parliament, against the proposed additional grant to Maynooth, was unanimously adopted. The moderator (Dr Muir) said, that although it was understood government were likewise ready to give a similar grant for a protestant college, the presbyterians of Ireland were prepared to refuse what they so very much desired, rather than accept it as a quietus.

OPINIONS OF CATHOLICS ON THE MEASURE.—Depend upon it, Sir Robert does not incur the odium of an income tax to squander away sums of eighteen or twenty thousand pounds a-year, without the best of all possible considerations. In the present instance, the considerations are twofold; one relating to the past, and one to the future. The gross iniquity of the Bequests act has to be larded over with omnipotent gold; and the mouths of the public guardians are to be closed, so that they bark not against the abomination of mixed collegiate education, by the liberality of this Maynooth sop. These are the immediate objects to be purchased so dearly, and those who think that no use is to be made hereafter of these engines of state-craft, bought at such a price, must entertain very exaggerated notions of the readiness of an English minister to let go from his tenacious clutches twenty thousand pounds sterling per annum. For our parts, when we see the Greeks giving their gifts after this fashion, we shudder inwardly at the treachery which we are certain must be in the back ground.—*Tablet*.

We have read with very great satisfaction the re-

solutions, in respect to the Maynooth grant, of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Anti-state-church Association. Both these bodies have founded their objections to state endowments for the Catholics on precisely the same grounds on which they also object to the endowment of protestant churches, and would refuse any state provision for themselves. Their resolutions are not deformed by the introduction of any expressions of theological odium against the Roman Catholics, to whom they would grant precisely the same protection and freedom which they would claim for themselves. There is nothing offensive to the Roman Catholics in their sentiments, which yet are clear and decided against the grant. These are resolutions in which we could join with entire satisfaction; and, if the opposition is to be conducted in this spirit, those will rejoice to join in it who shrink with disgust from the proceedings of Mr Plumptre and his Exeter hall associates. We were glad to see that the leaders of the independent dissenters were absent from the Exeter hall meeting, and that what they think it right to do they feel bound to do on different principles, and in a different spirit.—*Inquirer*.

PETITIONS AGAINST THE MAYNOOTH GRANT.—Last Sunday, petitions against the Maynooth grant were signed at East Parade, Belgrave, Queen street, Salem, and Marshall street chapels—being all the independent chapels in this town. They will remain over to-morrow, to give an opportunity to those who have not yet signed them, and in an early part of next week will be forwarded for presentation.—*Leeds Mercury*.

THE PRESBYTERIANS OF IRELAND AND MAYNOOTH.

—The following petition to parliament has been adopted by the presbytery of Coleraine:—

To the hon. the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the Presbytery of Coleraine, in connexion with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland,

Showeth—That your petitioners contemplate with serious alarm the rapid advancement of Romanism in this and other countries, and the increasing countenance and encouragement given to the system by different protestant governments; and, convinced from sacred scripture that popery is the grand anti-christian apostasy, and taught by the history of nations that it is essentially intolerant and persecuting, whilst its spirit of intrigue is dangerous to states and kingdoms, do most respectfully, but faithfully, remonstrate against the support given, or proposed to be given, to the church of Rome, which has been the invariable enemy of civil and religious liberty.

That your petitioners, claiming and freely conceding the right of private judgment, and strongly opposed to persecution for conscience' sake, do yet feel themselves imperatively bound, as dutiful and loyal subjects, and lovers of their country, and as ministers of the gospel of Christ, to record their solemn protest against the appropriation of any portion of the public funds to the endowment of the college of Maynooth; or to the support, in any other way, of a system which is subversive of those protestant principles on which the British throne is based, and of those free institutions which, under Providence, have raised Great Britain to such eminence among the nations of the earth.

May it, therefore, please your honourable House to take this petition under your serious consideration, and to withhold all grants of public money, and all tokens of public countenance, from the said Roman Catholic college of Maynooth, as well as from every other institution and form of Romanism.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed, in name and by authority of presbytery,
WILLIAM LYLE, Moderator.
CLARKE HUTSON, D.D., Clerk.

THE WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION has also come forward in opposition to the scheme. The committee of privileges have, through their energetic secretary, Mr Robert Eckett, addressed a circular to all the congregations in their connexion, urging them to petition parliament on the subject without delay. The following form of petition is recommended for adoption:—

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the undersigned members of the congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Association chapel at —,

Humbly sheweth—That your petitioners strongly and conscientiously object to any appropriation of the revenues of the state, for the support of any religious creed or form of worship; believing such appropriation to be a direct violation of the inalienable rights of those from whom such money is compulsorily obtained, contrary to the word of God, detrimental to the interests of true religion, and injurious to the welfare of the state.

That, regarding the proposal of her Majesty's ministers, to afford an increased annual grant for supporting the Roman Catholic college of Maynooth, as equally unjust and injurious to the best interests of all classes of the community; and believing it also to involve the principle of a state establishment of the church of Rome in Ireland, and the consequent endowment of popery, your petitioners, therefore, earnestly implore your honourable House not to accede to any proposal for so appropriating the revenues of the state,

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions may be written on paper—that which is large and strong is most appropriate; they may be signed by males and females, and the greater the number of signatures the more effective will be the petitions. Not a moment is to be lost, as the promoters of the bill may attempt to hurry it through the House. If any of our friends have not access to members of parliament to whom they can entrust their petitions, they will be duly presented, if forwarded post paid, and addressed Rev. R. Eckett, 6, Argyle square, London. The number of signatures should be cast up, and marked on the petitions.

THE PROTESTANT MEMBER FOR WIGAN has been addressed by the most active and influential mem-

bers of his last election committee, acquainting him, in plain terms, that they cannot assist him on the next occasion, should he in the meantime vote for Maynooth's enlarged grant. We believe an answer has not been received as yet, but it is thought that he will take the hint, as his election for his present seat again, on any other consideration, is quite hopeless.—*Record*.

MAYNOOTH NO COMPACT.—Mr J. Cook Evans has taken the trouble to search after the records of the alleged compact, and has put an end to every supposition on which it could possibly be grounded. He has shown, by the journals of the Irish parliament, that, so far from being the intention of that body, by the act of 1795, to give or promise a perpetual endowment to Maynooth, the Romish bishops had to petition in 1800 for such a concession, and were refused. Just at that moment the union took place, and the English Chancellor of the Exchequer, finding that some grants had been made to the college for four years previous to that event, and either mistaking, or desiring not to quarrel with, the new province about a poor £8,000, placed it among the annual votes to schools and hospitals, and there it has remained ever since. Not an iota of foundation, then, remains for the grant, as a matter to which the national faith is pledged, except that which is derived from a fifty years' possession. This is still talked of by some, as giving a sort of freehold grant which there would be an injustice in disregarding. But surely we must beware of a mode of reasoning which might perpetuate Juggernaut.—*Record*.

SEIZURES FOR CHURCH RATE IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, SURREY.—At the vestry meeting held in the above parish on Easter Tuesday, for the election of churchwarden and other parochial officers, some very curious and startling disclosures were made by one of the speakers respecting several seizures recently made on the property of the dissenting inhabitants, which tended to exhibit in a striking light not only the abomination of the system of compulsory payment for the support of what is termed state religion, but also the character of the agents employed in executing the work. The cases more immediately alluded to, were those on the property of Mr Apsley Pellatt, Mr D. Evans, and Mrs Dawes, an aged widow of the society of Friends—all of whom have from time to time suffered very serious losses, and great annoyances by the annual visits of these worthies. In one of the cases 20s. worth of soap was taken for a rate amounting to 4s. 2d. In Mrs Dawes's case, silver spoons worth between three and four pounds were captured to pay a rate amounting to 13s. 4d. Some remarks being made by the aggrieved parties respecting the excessive nature of the seizure, they were induced to send back a portion of their spoil; the remainder was pledged at a neighbouring pawnbroker's, and the duplicate sent to the old lady, who of course returned it with the contempt it merited. Shortly after, however, the same gentleman paid her a second visit, swept away her scales and weights, and almost every moveable article in use in her business, for another ecclesiastical demand.—*From a Correspondent*.

INCONSISTENCY OF DISSENTERS WITH REGARD TO THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.—On Tuesday se'n-night (Easter Tuesday), a vestry meeting was held in the Holy Rood church, Southampton—Dr Wilson, vicar, in the chair—for the purposes of electing churchwardens, guardians of the poor, and commissioners of water works, and also to make a church rate. After electing persons to these several offices, it was proposed by Mr W. Lankester, and seconded by Mr Lashley, that a rate of eightpence in the pound should be granted to the churchwardens, to meet the expenses of the current year, and to pay off a £50 bond, part of a debt incurred on the building of the spire of the church, some sixty years since. Now the fact is, that Mr W. Lankester, the proposer of the resolution, professes to be a nonconformist—and it is well known that he is one of the most influential dissenters in the parish; and yet this gentleman is foremost in proposing a church rate, thereby upholding a system he believes to be most unscriptural, and doing violence to the consciences of his brethren, by lending his aid to the oppressive and tyrannical acts of the act-of-parliament-made church. Such conduct is entirely unaccountable in any man claiming a character for consistency, and it is grievous that leading men in the ranks of dissenters are to be found so flagrantly violating their principles, and refusing to hold up to public view the unrighteous exactions of a law-made church.—*From a Correspondent*.

MR JAMES'S PLAN FOR AIDING CONGREGATIONS IN THE CHOICE OF A PASTOR.—Any such arrangement, implying jurisdiction or government, would obviously be fatal to the constitution of our churches, as involving an abandonment of the fundamental principles of Congregational polity. But what seems to us to be wanted, is, mainly, neither more nor less than readier means of obtaining the requisite information. The functions which Mr James would devolve upon a central committee, have been in some measure irregularly, but very usefully, discharged by individuals possessing an extensive acquaintance with the ministers and churches of their own denomination. . . . Speaking, then, from some experience, we fear that the task which the plan would impose, is far too delicate for committee work. Such a committee would be overwhelmed with applications which could not be dealt with usefully, without local and personal knowledge that must be gathered on the spot, or obtained second-hand by correspondence. We confess that we are very much of the opinion of the attached Congregationalist, whose letter

appeared in our last number, that the operations of a metropolitan committee would but aggravate the mischief; that our churches want to be diligently taught their own principles; and that inter-pastoral visitations for other purposes than raising money for missions—for purposes of fraternal kindness and religious edification, would be more likely to unite the whole body together, and to check the occurrence or growth of some of the evils complained of, than any other plan that has been suggested. Association, not centralisation, is the connecting principle of independency. At the same time, for the mere purpose of information, we should see no great harm in establishing a registry of vacant churches, or of students and others desirous of forming pastoral engagements, if such a measure met with the general concurrence of the denomination. This would require no committee, and would exclude all interference. It would not, however, accomplish what Mr James's plan aims at; and, unless the register were tolerably complete, it would involve a useless cost, and ultimately fail.—*Patriot*.

THE NEW BISHOP.—The Queen has approved of the appointment of the Dean of Westminster to the vacant see of Ely.—[Is this a reward for cleansing the Almonry, or does that moral pest-house remain in statu quo?]

Correspondence.

GROUND OF OPPOSING THE GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—I was much pleased to find in your last number an intimation that the Anti-state-church Association were about to take the field in reference to the contemplated agitation on the proposal of the Maynooth grant. Now, it appears to me that that society will have a most important and solemn part to perform, should the agitation be at all a general one. It will be its aim to direct the eye of the people to the principle involved in the question, and not allow it to take a one-sided glance at a minor infraction of justice, while the glaring evil remains unassailed—the more so will it be necessary, as should Sir R. Peel find the opposition likely to be formidable among the organised bodies of ecclesiastics, he may neutralise their opposition by extending to them the promise of a like favour. It appears to me just the question for the Association to take up, and, if carried on with spirit and energy, may do much, not only to aid the general cause, but to bring the principles and objects of the society before many classes of persons who are at present either hostile or indifferent to the principle so ably advocated by its friends. While the great majority of protestants may go against the proposed measure, it must be kept prominently before the world that we will tolerate no fragment of that bane of religious concord, state-churchism.

Remaining, yours sincerely,

A MEMBER OF THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met at their rooms, 37, Waterloo street, Birmingham, on Monday—Mr Sturge in the chair; but there was no business of public interest before them.

HENRY VINCENT.—A lecture was delivered on Wednesday evening, in the National Hall, 242, Holborn, by the above eloquent advocate of the people's rights, on the "Democratic Tendency of the age." Mr Vincent gave a lucid explanation of the true and false ideas entertained respecting democracy, and eloquently dwelt upon the certainty of the ultimate triumph of the democratic principle. The lecturer was enthusiastically applauded by a numerous audience, and at the conclusion it was announced that he would lecture again in the same place on the Wednesday following (this evening), on "The Nature and Tendency of Aristocracy."

MALDON.—During the past week, Mr H. Vincent delivered two lectures here, on the principles of democracy, both of which were numerously and respectably attended. On Thursday, the 27th, he forcibly portrayed the evils under which our country groans, through misgovernment, the dangerous and unconstitutional influence exercised by the aristocracy over our borough and county constituencies, and the means by which such influence must be remedied; closing with a brilliant and thrilling apostrophe to liberty, which completely electrified the audience, and elicited thunders of applause. On Friday, the 28th, there was a still larger assembly, when he entered more minutely into the remedies proposed, clearly showing the inalienable right of every man, uncontaminated with crime, to a voice in the representation—the necessity for adopting the ballot to protect him in the exercise of that right—the justice and policy of paying representatives directly instead of indirectly for their services—concluding with a powerful appeal to Christians to take a bold and decided part in directing public opinion, and thus leading the phalanx of liberty to a triumphant but peaceful victory. An impression has been produced, which we trust will long abide; and, in order that the subject may be kept prominently before the electors, it is in contemplation immediately to organise a complete suffrage association, and invite Mr Vincent to deliver two more lectures on the same topic, in about a month from this time.

The officers who have been employed in the various Polar expeditions, by sea and land, have just presented to Sir John Barrow, on the occasion of his retirement from the office as Secretary of the Admiralty, a handsome candelabrum, with a suitable inscription, &c.; to testify their private esteem, and to record their sense of the very prominent part he has taken for many years past in the promotion of Arctic discovery.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Copper Ore, for repeal of duty on, 2.
County Courts, for establishment of, 3.
Hill Coolies, against importation of, 2.
Lord's Day, for the better observance of, 2.
Malt Tax, for repeal of, 45.
Maynooth College, against increase of grant to, 19.
Public Houses, for restricting the number of, 5.
Religious Tests, for abolition of, 1.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Customs (Import Duties) bill.
Public Museums, &c., bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Supply—40,000 men for the sea service, including 10,500 marines, and 2,000 boys.

DEBATES.

Monday, March 31st.

SUPPLY.

Upon the order of the day for the committee of supply being read, the SPEAKER called on Mr WAKLEY and Sir C. NAPIER, who had each given notice of their intention to move amendments upon it, but neither gentlemen responded to the call; and the House accordingly resolved itself into committee without any previous discussion, to the great amusement of the members who were present, and to the no small annoyance, as afterwards appeared, of the two gentlemen who chanced to be absent.

In the committee, Mr CORRY brought forward the navy estimates, briefly stating the causes for the increase or decrease of each particular grant. Among other matters he explained the reasons why he demanded an increase of 4,000 men for the naval service of the present year. That increase was rendered requisite by the necessity of having squadrons on the coast of China, on the coast of Africa, and in the Pacific Ocean. A vote of 40,000 men for the service of the present year was a less vote than that which was required for the service of the year 1841-1842, for at that time we had no considerable squadrons in those seas, and at present 5,000 men were wanted to man the ships of the three additional squadrons to which he had just referred. He then moved a resolution fixing at 40,000 the number of men to be employed in the naval service for the year ending the 31st of March, 1846.

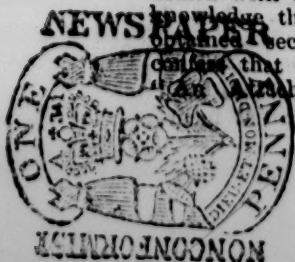
Mr WAKLEY immediately rose, and moved that the chairman do report progress. He had been pressed by his constituents to bring forward a motion respecting the post-office. They were most anxious that he should move for a copy of the warrant, if any existed, authorising the Postmaster-general to open the letters of his colleague, Mr Duncombe. That motion he must bring forward, and whenever he did so, he would take the sense of the House upon it. He had been absent from the house only five minutes, and when he returned to it he found it in a committee of supply. It was a sad pity that government should have lent itself to such sharp practice, especially as it was not then five o'clock, the hour at which public business generally commenced.

Sir R. PEEL disclaimed all intention of taking advantage of Mr Wakley's absence. After the notices of motion were read, the Speaker waited five minutes; and it was not till then that Mr CORRY proposed to proceed with the public business.

Sir C. NAPIER observed, that if Mr Wakley felt that he had a right to complain of sharp practice, he had a still stronger reason to urge the same complaint, for his notice of motion stood lower down on the orders of the day.

On the first vote, proposing a grant of 44,000 men, Sir C. NAPIER then proceeded to address the committee upon the state of the navy, and more particularly that of the steam navy. Before the House granted more money for the repair and construction of ships and steamers, it ought to have before it the various returns for which he had moved, but which he had been unable to obtain from ministers, respecting the state in which the navy was at present. He then repeated the objections which he had urged on many recent occasions against the present system of naval construction, insisting that though we had at present nominally a large fleet, we should find it impossible in case of war to man and send 50 ships of the line to sea within twelve months. Before another farthing was voted for the construction of steam-boats, we ought to have a commission of scientific men appointed to examine the principles on which they should be built. He pointed out in detail the defects in our steam frigates, and observed that in our 24 steam sloops there was not one where all the machinery might not be destroyed by the effect of a single shot. He had intended to have moved for the appointment of a commission to inquire into this subject, but for the present he had been defeated by the adroit management of the government.

Sir G. COCKBURN admitted, that our steam navy was commenced at a period when the construction of steam boats for maritime warfare was not well understood. He asserted, however, that the steam navy which we had now at sea was in an effective state, and was not, as Sir C. Napier represented it, perfectly useless. The Admiralty was listening every day to proposals for improving it, and was busily engaged in considering how those proposals could be carried into effect. They were now trying to place the machinery of steam vessels under water, and to make it as safe from external accidents as a ship's magazine was at present. He would not enter into particulars; but, as regarded the comparison between our steam navy and that of our neighbours, he would confine himself to saying, that our steam navy was to theirs as three to two. We had 30,000 horse-power, they had but 20,000.



Captain BERKELEY approved of the increase in the naval estimates, not merely because it was necessary to place this country in a proper position with respect to France and other countries, but because he wished the peace of Europe to be preserved.

A desultory debate followed, shared in by Captains ROUS, PEACHELL, and CARNEGIE, and

Mr HUME, who proposed, as an amendment, a reduction of the number of men contained in the vote, arguing generally against the extravagance which characterised the administration of the finances in the maintenance of our establishments.

Mr SYDNEY HERBERT replied to the charge of extravagance by pleading that an effective system of ship-building, and an adequate naval force, was, in the long run, true economy, looking to the number of our colonies and the extent of our commerce.

Lord INGESTRE and Mr WILLIAMS added some remarks, and, Sir CHARLES NAPIER having replied,

Mr HUME entered his protest against rendering the Admiralty an instrument for political purposes, but declined to carry his amendment to a division.

Lord PALMERSTON then rose, and, admitting the vast importance of an efficient navy to such a country as this, declared his opinion that the discussion of that evening showed we had come to this pass, that science should now be called in to the aid of practice in the construction of our ships. The argument of Sir George Cockburn, that our ships, during the late war, enabled us to compete with those of other nations, proved the superiority of our sailors, not of our men of war. It was undoubtedly difficult to calculate, with the accuracy of mathematical science, the precise proportions which should constitute an effective ship of war: but then it was as undoubtedly the business of the Admiralty to call in the aid of every improvement which science could suggest. It was stated that our steam marine, in the amount of horse power, stood in relation to that of France, as two to three. But this was unsatisfactory, without a statement of the comparative number of vessels. He would cheerfully agree to whatever augmentation of our naval force was requisite for the effectual suppression of the slave trade on the coast of Africa; but the present government, which scrupled to admit slave-grown sugar, had voluntarily abandoned that mutual right of search with France and the United States, which was so essential to the suppression of the traffic. He was not the sole individual who attached importance to the right of search. Lord Castlereagh, in 1814, and, in subsequent years, the Duke of Wellington and others, had urged the importance of the right of search, in their negotiations with the allied powers. He would not object to the convention agreed on between this country and France by the present government, if, in the meantime, the system which they found existing had been left in operation till a better system were found for it. But he regretted to see such distinguished individuals as the appointed commissioners engaging in an inquiry which was preceded by an abandonment of the question in dispute. The government, either from weakness or acquiescence, were giving up all those principles hitherto held sacred by this country, and exposing the inhabitants of Africa to a revival of all those atrocities which marked the slave trade in its vigour.

Sir ROBERT PEEL defended the Board of Admiralty, and stated that the present government had actually appointed a commission to inquire into the state of the defences of our dockyards; and the result of its report was to be seen in the increased estimates now laid before the House. The noble lord took the opportunity of censuring the foreign policy of the government, but, recollecting the fate of his motion on what he termed the "Ashburton capitulation," he shrank from formally bringing forward his views on the subject. In his opinion a wise moderation was a policy preferable to bluster and menace, in settling our differences with other nations. Were France and England, for instance, to go to war for the sake of an island, as Tahiti, some eight or ten thousand miles distant? He admitted that the right of search, if mutually conceded, was the most efficacious instrument for the suppression of the slave trade. But the estrangement between France and England originated in the transactions accompanying and following the Syrian war, and at that period Lord Palmerston was the minister for Foreign Affairs. There was, however, little doubt that two such eminent men as the Duke de Broglie and Dr Lushington, associated, as their past lives were, with the suppression of the slave trade, would adopt anything less efficacious than that right of search which had now become practically useless. Warmly vindicating the government from the imputation of sacrificing in any essential point the honour or dignity of the country in their negotiations with the United States or with France, he concluded by declaring that unless the feeling of the legislature cordially supported them in their efforts to effect amicable terminations of disputes, the maintenance of peace would be rendered impossible.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, after referring back to some of the circumstances connected with the Ashburton treaty with the United States, declared himself as sensitively alive to the value of the blessings of peace, but did not think that peace was most effectually preserved by concession. In Spain we had abandoned the policy and the tone befitting a great country like this; and, however eminent were the commissioners appointed to discover a substitute for the right of search, their appointment was an evasion of that responsibility which ought to rest on the government. As to the increased vote for the naval service, he was of opinion that it was justified by the altered circumstances in which we found ourselves placed by the progress made in steam navigation.

After some additional conversation, the vote was agreed to, and further progress in the committee was adjourned, the House rising shortly afterwards.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE OREGON TERRITORY.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice that on Friday next he will bring under the consideration of the House that portion of the message of the President of the United States which relates to the territory of the Oregon.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM, in answer to questions from Lord DUNCAN and Mr DIVETT, repeated what he had said on a previous evening, that the act abolishing imprisonment for debt for sums under £20 worked on the whole well, and that there was no intention entertained of repealing it, but that it was desirable to have further experience of its working before extending its provisions to Ireland and Scotland.

IRELAND.

GREAT REPEAL MEETING AT KILKENNY.—Mr O'Connell had a monster meeting, though not of the very largest scale, at Kilkenny, on Tuesday. From Castlecomer, nine miles distant, he was escorted to Kilkenny in procession, by a host estimated variously from 20,000 to 50,000. He was accompanied by Mr John O'Connell and other "repeal martyrs," Mr Smith O'Brien, Mr Dillon Browne, and more leading repealers. Mr Thomas Steele posted from Tipperary to meet the party. The procession consisted mainly of peasantry, mingled with large bodies of artisans, preceded by banners and bands of music; all attempting a military regularity in their march and bearing. Then came a large cavalcade of equestrians—the poor farmers of the surrounding district, each mounted on the best-looking of his plough horses; and finally, some hundreds of overloaded vehicles of every kind. Mr O'Connell was expected to address the meeting in the open air; but that characteristic of a monster meeting failed. In the evening he was entertained at a banquet. An unfinished chapel was handsomely fitted up for the purpose, with hangings, transparencies, and the usual kind of decorations. Mr Cane, the mayor of Kilkenny, presided; and about six hundred gentlemen surrounded the board. The Chairman and the leading repealers appeared in the green uniform of the '82 club; to the military aspect of which more than one speaker alluded with undisguised satisfaction. Mr Smith O'Brien and Mr Dillon Brown spoke of it as the dress of "officers" for the Irish people. The following is an extract from the speech of the former of these gentlemen:—

They saw the uniform, and he had no doubt they were pleased with it; but it was not the bauble of gay clothes and gold lace that was to attract them, it was the remembrance of the glorious era which this uniform and this name called up, that was to inspire them and give them fresh hopes for the future. Indeed, he might say that their dress required nothing but the sword to constitute them officers of the Irish people—they were in appearance military in everything but the sword, and if the time should come when it would be necessary to wear it and use it in defence of their country and her liberties, they would not be found wanting [loud and long-continued cheering].

Mr O'Connell delivered one of his stereotyped monster-meeting speeches. For example, in answer to the declaration in the royal speech, that agitation in Ireland had abated, he vaunted the assemblage of that day as disproving the untruth; and went on in this strain:—

We want to show that the physical force, as well as the mental energy which the movement had acquired, still remain. Yes: we hold the monster procession to-day as an answer to the Queen's speech; and if they give us the opportunity, and provoke us to its exercise, we will give twice as many. To be sure, I have no just affection for John Bull—now, don't be angry with me—I confess I have no great love for the English nation—I don't know why I should love them.

There was a good deal about the "Cromwellian cruelty" of the Wexford massacre of ladies, surviving in the unfair rancour of the state prosecution. However, he hinted at something comparatively new—a modified form of the long-advertised project, the "Preservative Society of Three Hundred."

He came there to talk, among other things, of the club of '82. When a man of his age ventured to wear such a dress, it was not unlikely that younger men would soon be generally clothed in it. For his part, he wanted to see five hundred of the young blood of Ireland attired in the same costume; and he would leave it to the jury of ladies present to say whether it would become them or not. And out of that club of five hundred, he expected to be able to select a conservative senate of three hundred gentlemen, to act as mediators between the repealers and their opponents.

The "Repeal Martyrs" were duly toasted; and they returned thanks. The spiciest oratory was that of the Reverend Matthew Tierney:—

Imprisonment of O'Connell had created a deep feeling of hatred in the Irish mind—an undying thirst of vengeance. It was an insult offered to a whole people in the person of their chieftain and liberator—an insult never to be effaced. Although his enemies did not redress the scaffold with his blood, yet they thought that a twelvemonth's imprisonment would prove his martyrdom. But the hand of Providence had protected him from their fell design. Let them recollect that Jezebel decorated herself with her choicest jewels when she showed herself at the windows of her palace, but that the next morning she was thrown into the street, and her flesh became as filth upon earth. He trusted that the fate of that wretched being might prove a salutary warning to her followers in blood and infamy [loud cheers, and cries of "Amen!"]. The toasting and speaking were kept up to a late hour.

LORD HEYTESBURY'S APPOINTMENTS.—The Lord-Lieutenant has appointed as one of his chaplains the Rev. Henry Griffin, who is represented to be "a staunch liberal in politics, and a decided supporter of

the national system of education;" and the Rev. Daniel Bagot, vicar of Newry, also a supporter of the national system, has received similar promotion.

REVIVAL OF THE MONSTER MEETINGS.—It was reported in Dublin, on Thursday, that Mr O'Connell, unable longer to withstand the pressure from the leaders of the Young Ireland party, will attempt, in the course of the ensuing summer, to re-organise monster meetings on the same scale as those which created so much apprehension in the year 1843.

ESCAPE FROM GAOL AND RECAPTURE.—A notorious and determined robber, John Reilly, who escaped from Trim gaol in January last, has been captured near Kilkullen, after a desperate resistance. He was armed with a pistol and a short double-barrelled gun, and provided with balls and cartridges, a knife, chisel, matches, a piece of candle, lamp-black, and red paint, prepared apparently to commit a robbery in the neighbourhood in which he was seized. Thus accoutred, he was found by a gardener on the lawn of a Mr O'Keefe, and questioned as to his intentions. He replied by firing the pistol at the querist; the report brought assistance; and Mr O'Keefe's groom, a Scotch girl, and the gardener, after a fierce battle, secured the ruffian.

During a merry-making in a barn at Bannakry, in Tipperary, one evening last week, two men, Ryan and Brien, accompanied by four or five strangers, entered the place, and endeavoured to pick a quarrel with the steward of the lady whose people had met together; the intruders, however, were quietly ejected. But they were bent on blood; and, having soon afterwards met an unoffending man, they murdered him. The murderers were known, and are in custody.

SCOTLAND.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.—We are informed that a general movement throughout Scotland may be expected to take place, to protest against the continuance of these mischievous remnants of bigotry and intolerance. The town councils are expected to pass resolutions, and forward to government protests against them; so are presbyteries and other religious bodies. It is also expected that public meetings will be held in the large towns for a similar purpose. Arrangements are all but completed for such a meeting in Edinburgh; and as the matter is to be brought under the notice of the House of Commons in the early part of next month, no time should be lost in sending up resolutions and petitions.—*Scotsman*.

MR WALLACE, M.P.—We regret to learn the hon. member for Greenock became seriously unwell last week, in London, while attending his parliamentary duties, and that he has returned home to Kelly house.—*Scots Reformer's Gazette*.

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE SCOTCH BANKS.—We understand that the deputation of Scottish bankers, who had last week an interview with Sir Robert Peel, entertain a confident expectation, founded on the whole tenor of their conversation with the right hon. baronet, that his forthcoming measure in reference to the Scotch banks will not have the effect either of curtailing their circulation, or of otherwise injuriously affecting them.—*Glasgow Chronicle*.

VIOLENT HURRICANE AND LOSS OF FIVE LIVES.—Since Wednesday last the weather has been exceedingly unsettled and boisterous. On the evening of the above day we had a succession of equinoctial gales, accompanied by lightning and heavy rain. On Thursday night the wind increased to a perfect hurricane, which continued without intermission till seven o'clock in the morning, and was at its height about four o'clock. Though the streets were strewn in all directions with chimney cans, slates, &c., we have not learned of any serious damage having been sustained in the city. It has been otherwise, we regret to say, at Pollockshaws. The gable of a new two-storey tenement in Pollok street, at present erecting by the Weavers' Society, was blown down by the violence of the storm, and falling upon an adjoining one-storey thatched tenement, buried a family of seven persons in the ruins. The family consisted of John Muters, late grocer, aged 79, his wife, aged 75, widow Rann, their daughter, and her three children, Mary, William, and Catherine, aged 10, 12, and 14, and a young woman, a relation, aged 20. When the gable fell John Muters and his wife were in one of the kitchen beds, and Mrs Rann and her youngest daughter in the other, and William Rann, Catherine Rann, and Elizabeth Brown, were in a bed in a back room. Mrs Rann and her youngest daughter were, by the active assistance of the neighbours, taken out of the ruins by the window unhurt; but all the others must have been instantly suffocated by the great mass of thatch and stones which pressed upon them.—*Glasgow Post*.

On Saturday night, while a sweep was cleaning a vent, two stories high, in Goosedubs, part of the chimney top gave way, and he fell with it to the ground. He immediately rose, not the least injured, and coolly walked to the police office to prefer a complaint against the owner of the chimney for not having it in a sufficient state of security.—*Glasgow Saturday Post*.

HER MAJESTY AND PRINCE ALBERT on Saturday left Windsor on a visit to Osborne house, Isle of Wight, which has been purchased for a royal marine residence. The royal party proceeded by railway to Gosport, and from thence by the Victoria and Albert yacht to the Isle of Wight. Several of the Lords of the Admiralty were in attendance, and Sir R. Peel arrived in the course of the day. Her Majesty returned to Buckingham palace yesterday afternoon.

York Minster has been completely restored, at a cost of £90,000. The great bell, with its stock, weighs sixteen tons, and will require twelve men to ring it.

Postscript.

Wednesday, April 2.

PROPOSED GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.

Last evening a public meeting of the members and friends of the British Anti-state-church Association was held at the Eastern Institution, Commercial road, for the purpose of originating a petition to the legislature against the proposed grant to Maynooth college. The chair was taken at a little after seven o'clock, by Dr Cox. The hall was densely crowded, and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed throughout the proceedings. Amongst those on the platform were Drs Price, Davies, and Oxley, Messrs W. Seaborn, J. Curwen, G. Halliday, C. T. Hyatt, D. Moore, J. Carlile, C. Stovel, Z. M. Fry, W. Allan, D'Arcy Irvine, J. Hooper, E. Miall, C. Hyatt, Alderman Challis, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, on opening the meeting, said they met on a matter of great importance, especially when they considered its bearing on the interests of the country and of the world. It was an awful thing when a strong government proposed weak and wicked measures; they were so when they opposed the rights of man and conscience, and the principles of Christianity. Governments were apt to intrude into a sphere not designed for them, and instead of acting within one ground, they acted upon principles of expediency, and made everything bend to state policy. It was so in the subject that was to be brought before them to-night—the grant to Maynooth. The minister had said, the legislature was bound to supply increased means of education for the ecclesiastics of the Romish church, without any condition as to the doctrines or discipline of that church. No doubt that to do so would tend to prolong his reign in the House of Commons, but it would not tend to advance either the principles of religious liberty, or the best interests of the country. This was one of those great questions which should undergo grave and periodical discussion. Maynooth should not become an endowed establishment. To the people there should be an appeal, and they should express their opinion [hear, hear]. But that could not be done if, as he believed, the minister intended to make a permanent endowment of Maynooth. Before the year 1795, the whole of the Irish clergy were educated on the continent of Europe, and it was contrary to law for them to be educated here. In 1793 they prayed to be allowed to found a college for that purpose, but not to be supported by the public money. Mr Pitt listened to the proposition, and in May, 1795, it was ordered that the committee of the House of Commons, to whom the bill was referred, be empowered to introduce a clause to appropriate £8,000 for the purposes of education. By that bill the college of Maynooth was founded. Trustees were appointed to establish and endow the college, and to receive subscriptions and donations for the purposes for which it was intended. After this an act was passed for the better government of the college, and a resolution passed that any sum not exceeding £8,000 might be paid by his Majesty's commissioners for the purposes of establishing the academy. It was not intended to endow the college, but only to assist in its establishment, as subsequently stated by the Duke of Wellington, when Sir Arthur Wellesley, in 1808. The only thing intended was to contribute, at that time, and from time to time, by vote, some sum of the public money to assist in its support. In the year of the Union, it was agreed to by parliament, that £8,000 should be granted for that year for the support of the college. That was the second grant, and it was but for a single year; and yet Sir R. Peel had stated that an arrangement had been made with the Irish parliament to support, if not to endow, the college out of the public money. Nothing could be further from the fact. We were under no sort of obligation to continue the grant, even from year to year. The plea was founded upon either a total misconception of the case, or a determination to do something, at all hazards, for the pacification of Ireland. He (Dr Cox) was for pacification; but he was also for principle [cheers]. Let them have principle first, and peace afterwards. This was a most unprincipled movement of Sir Robert Peel, whose whole history exhibited departures from principle and consistency. He then took a review of Sir Robert Peel's career, from the time of his first opposing catholic emancipation, and urged upon the meeting that, as he had in all his vacillations been found to take the right course by the pressure of public opinion, that same force should now be employed to force him into a right course, now that he was contemplating the establishment of that very catholic religion, which he so strenuously opposed previously to 1829. He said he was anxious it should be understood that the object of those who had promoted this meeting was not to oppose the establishment of the catholic religion, as such; it was to oppose the establishment of any religion [cheers]—they were against a state church, whatever the religion might be. Religion was too sacred a thing to be thus dealt with. It was the pure spirit of Christianity that had blessed the world; and it would free itself from all human circumstances, and again go forth to bless the world.

Dr PRICE moved the first resolution:—

That this meeting, conscientiously holding the principle, "that, in matters of religion, man is responsible to God alone, and that all legislation, by secular governments, in affairs of religion, is an encroachment upon the rights of man and an invasion of the prerogatives of God," records its solemn conviction that all application by law, of the resources of the nation, whether of public

property to the episcopal church, or public money, improperly called *regium donum*, to any class of protestant dissenters, or of public grants to the church of Rome, "as contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the word of God."

He said he was desirous that it should be distinctly understood by their catholic fellow-countrymen, that whatever movement they made with reference to Maynooth college, they were in no way animated by hostility to their doctrines or polity. They were as much entitled to freedom in the maintenance of them as any other body of Christians were; and those who had got up this meeting had, in times past, most zealously laboured to retain for them an entrance into the temple of the British constitution. In referring to the condition of Ireland, the Dr said that in no country upon the face of the earth had the people been so miserably subjected to the wills and interests of a class as in Ireland. But admitting all this, it was the solemn duty of all Christian men to stand forward as the steady opponents of such a measure as that now about to be introduced into parliament, the object of which was to endow the Roman catholic religion. He rejoiced to think that such a measure had been introduced by a conservative government, which had been carried into power by the high church party. Such a measure was not less hostile to the freedom of our rational nature than it was to the principles of Christianity; and he trusted that the voice of the country would penetrate even St Stephen's, and deter the ministry and the parliament from such an inversion of the rules which Christ had laid down for the government of his church [cheers]. The proposition of the minister was a cheering circumstance, for it showed that the church was coming down from her high place, and trying to buy off her assailants, one after the other. As long as she could maintain her monopoly, the catholics and others might have asked for endowments in vain; but, now that she felt her weakness, she was willing even to sacrifice her principles to maintain her bad pre-eminence a little longer [cheering]. Should they thus succeed, after all that Christians had done and suffered, in order to maintain the purity of religion, and to secure the mental emancipation of mankind? He earnestly prayed that God would prevent it; and he called upon all those present to do their duty, in order to secure that end. There would be no safety for human liberty or religious truth until all secular alliances with religion were swept away.

Mr JOHN CURWEN, independent minister, seconded the resolution, and said that, although he did not rejoice in the proposition of the minister, he rejoiced most heartily in the agitation to which it was giving rise [cheers]. Others taught in classes, but Sir R. Peel taught a nation. He was most effectively aiding the Anti-state-church Association.

The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously.

Mr EDWARD MIALL moved the next resolution:—

"That this meeting views with serious apprehension the proposal of her Majesty's government to enlarge the grant to Maynooth college, and, especially, to remove it from the annual supervision of the Commons' House of parliament by making it permanent; and that not only the act to be done, but the motive which prompts the deed, and the germ of future policy which lies hidden in it, called for determined and systematic resistance on the part of the friends of religious freedom, of all denominations, throughout the United Kingdom."

He said—Poor Ireland! She has been reduced to political beggary and degradation by one church establishment, and now it is proposed to inflict upon her another. One would suppose that there was something peculiar in the atmosphere of St Stephen's, which prevents our legislators taking a common-sense view of any ecclesiastical subject—no great compliment, it may be said, to the present electoral system [hear, hear]. They appear to act upon the homeopathic principle in politics. They seek to remove disease by aggravating it. They wish to sustain a great principle which they have found very profitable in past times, and, seeing that the system has been overworked, and is becoming dangerous, they seek to plant an offshoot elsewhere. I will not test this question by theological views. No man supposes that the government is influenced by a concern for the religious welfare of Ireland. It is true they once professed an anxiety to guard against the intrusion of error, and to advance the interests of what they believed to be the truth; but by their present proceedings they are blowing all their former professions into thin air. They are in a false position, and are driven into it by their political exigencies. The agitation raging in Ireland has driven them into such straits that they are now willing that others should share with the establishment in the spoil. I oppose this measure, not because I abhor Romish doctrines; nay, I think that if I held those doctrines, I should be even more ready to raise my indignant voice against this proposal. It is simply and solely an expedient to enable the aristocracy to retain power and place. The establishment is a vast bundle of vested interests; it produces several millions a year, and affords pasture ground for the scions of the aristocracy; and it is to maintain this, at all hazards, that the present measure is brought forward by what Mr D'Israeli calls an "organised hypocrisy." The hope that it will benefit Ireland is perfectly fallacious. What good will it do, or what substantial benefit will be derived from it? It will not alter the tenure of land—it will not remove that perpetual eyesore and grievance, a protestant establishment—it will not drain the morasses, afford employment to the population, diffuse education, or advance the mental and moral interests of Irishmen. Is not the Roman catholic religion already vigorous and flourishing, and do not the priests, dependent as they are on the support of the people, enjoy their confidence and

affection? And is all this to be improved and heightened by detaching the priests from their flocks, and making them their political supervisors? It is idle to talk of soothing Ireland, so long as the church establishment exists. Every argument urged in favour of the proposed grant to Maynooth tells with equal force in favour of the destruction of that church. Let that be removed—let the *regium donum* and all parliamentary grants cease—let the Dublin university be thrown open to all sects—leave religion alone to take care of itself—and you will then have removed the ulcer which now afflicts the body politic, the work of government will be comparatively easy, and you will secure the prosperity of Ireland and the gratitude of her sons.

Mr SEABORN, independent minister, seconded the resolution. He rejoiced that by going to the root of the evil they were relieved from those difficulties in which many were placed who opposed the measure. He objected to bribery in any shape, especially when it was done at his expense, and this alone would induce him to bestir himself in this agitation. He rejoiced to see such a meeting in the east of London, and to know that others would immediately follow it. He hoped that the representatives for the borough would see the necessity of opposing the measure. He had heard that Lord Sandon had received as many as a thousand letters from his constituents, declaring their resolution to withhold their votes from him at the next election if he did not vote with them on this question.

Mr E. HALLIDAY, independent minister, in supporting the resolution, said that the present measure was only intended to bolster up a church establishment which extracted thirty-three shillings from every individual of the population for the support of the religion of one in every ten. It had been the pet of every cabinet—the Jonah of every state vessel; and its present mad steersmen seemed resolved to suffer shipwreck amidst the storm of discontent and the surges of wrath which were gathering around them. One establishment had ground the Irish to the dust, and it was now proposed to inflict upon them another. The *regium donum* had tamed the shrew of presbyterianism, and it was now wished to administer an opiate to the Roman catholic community, but the people would, he trusted, speak out too loudly to permit the act to be perpetrated.

As the Chairman was about to put the resolution, a gentleman of the name of DAVIS, from Belfast, presented himself upon the platform, to propose, as an amendment, a resolution declaring that any grant of public money for the support of popery, in Ireland or elsewhere, was against the spirit of the British constitution.

Mr STOVEL and Mr MIALL urged that the resolution, being a substantive one, could not be allowed to interfere with the course of proceeding which had been arranged. They suggested that the proposed resolution should be postponed till the other business had been disposed of. This having been agreed to,

Mr JAMES CARLILE, independent minister, briefly moved:—

"That, in pledging themselves to oppose this measure by all proper and constitutional means, this meeting assure their fellow-citizens, the Roman catholics of Ireland, of their anxious desire that, as citizens, they may enjoy any right and equitable privileges, possessed by other classes of the community; and they record their protest against the outrage done to their feelings, by the maintenance, for centuries, of a protestant established church in that land."

Mr C. STOVEL, baptist minister, on rising to second the resolution, was received with enthusiastic applause. I have been invited, he said, to take a part in other movements relating to this Maynooth grant; and I have felt it my duty not to agree therein. You will allow me, I think, first, to state why I then did not act; and, secondly, why I now do. First, I could not well engage in an undertaking like that at Exeter hall for instance, because I could not go, as I can on the present occasion, to the root and principle of the matter [hear]. I regard, my friends (and you know me well enough to know it), I regard hacking the extremities, as altogether of no use [hear]. The axe must be laid to the root—the monster which we have to slay must be stabbed in the heart [loud cheers]. I must have the whole principle of religious liberty, or I cannot deal with the detail. In the second place, I cannot help feeling that the projected movements had an unfriendly appearance towards those whom I am obliged to call my opponents. You know well enough my views on popery; and it is because there is a well-defined ground of difference between us, that I feel bound to act towards them, in relation to their civil liberties, on principles of magnanimous generosity [cheers]. I wish to bear no unfriendly appearance towards the man I am anxious to convince. In the next place, I think, if any good is to be done in the arrangement of national matters, it must be by holding the scales of justice evenly, and with clean hands. I should shrink, above all things, from engaging in an opposition to the Maynooth grant, if I had any part whatever in the reception of a similar grant [hear]. If I received any *regium donum*, I could not speak against the grant to Ireland. I look back with pleasure on the day when you, sir, gave up your share in the distribution of that money; and I look with pleasure upon this society, which goes the whole length of relinquishing any hope or claim or desire for such communications from the state. Having carried out our principles, I think we can now urge their observance upon others [cheers]. To the first part of the resolution I hold myself fully committed. Let me take this opportunity of stating that, not in my own case only can I stand forth and ask for the right of citizenship, irrespective of my religious opinions; but from my youth up I have pleaded that all religious opinions whatsoever should be freed from

political disadvantages and from political support. I would not have the privileges of citizenship withheld from the catholic any more than from the protestant. In the second place, this resolution enters a protest against the outrage done to the feelings of our Irish brethren by the maintenance for centuries of a state church. Here, I confess, I know not how to select language to express the deep feelings of my own heart. There is in the state of Ireland a bitterness and desperation which I have looked upon till my heart has sunk. I remember, on stepping ashore at Waterford, when spending a few weeks in Ireland, that I mingled among the thousands of her poor, and I observed the noble generosity which they displayed, and the cordial hospitality with which they received me. A woman, on taking my horse to the stable (as is common there), said, "I would be kind to you, if I could, sir." It seemed the language of Ireland that spoke that. How is it that a nation so marked with sprightly genius, vigorous intellect, sparkling wit, and generous hospitality, and everything grand and noble, should from century to century be complained of as a thing that cannot be managed? I am persuaded there must be some infatuating error which marks the men who hold the reins and direct the movements of the government [loud cheers]. It is a proverb in our country, "Tread upon a worm, and it will writhe." How can it be otherwise? When a nation's powers of endurance become too weak, how can it do otherwise than complain? I know nothing of that stoicism which will not cry when hungry—that will mutter no complaint at the point of starvation, ground down under burdens which cannot be borne, when immense resources are drained out of a land to feed the luxury of others, while squalid want and neglected misery are left to perish upon the soil from which they are extracted [loud cheers]. I object altogether to this measure, because it only tends to increase the calamity which it is intended to relieve. I look upon it as an insult to the Irish people. It is said, it will conciliate them. Irishmen, am I to suppose that you are so mean that this paltry £30,000 will silence you? [No, no.] Tell me, will O'Connell be silenced by it? [No, no.] Will those who ask for freedom be silenced by it? [No, no.] You cannot silence Ireland. Give £30,000, if you will, to the Maynooth students, will that feed the starving thousands of Ireland? Will that satisfy her hungry poor? Will that put a single garment on the back of the naked? It will be no benefit to the people of Ireland. Buy over all her priesthood, if you will, but that will not quiet Ireland [cheers]. There is another objection I have to the measure. If this grant would conciliate Ireland, should not Sir Robert Peel consider from whence he takes the money [hear]? Is it right that it should come out of the pockets of the English people? Are we not taxed enough already? Have we not been brought almost to the verge of starvation? Are we not pressed on every side? Is it not hard that more money is to be extracted from us, specially without our will? The man seems as though he would take from us all that we have, and a little in addition [laughter and cheers]. I at one time proposed, in this place, a resource for meeting the exigencies of England, which, if I had been in the cabinet, should have been proposed there—just to take the whole sum extracted by force from the nation for the support of the establishment—all public property—and appropriate it to the use of the poor [loud and continued applause]. You have relieved the nation—you have relieved the government. Every man must feel the healthful influence of it, and religion would rise from her heavy incumbrance [cheers]. I propose the same for Ireland. I say, take the whole sum that is now drained off unjustly and cruelly, to the insult of the feeling of Ireland, and expended here at home in support of the rich circles of aristocracy, that ought to work ["Hear, hear," and loud cheers]. I say, take all that sum—that two millions, or more or less, as it may be, and appropriate it to the use of Ireland's people [immense cheering]. By this means you will relieve our legislators of their great anxiety [laughter]; and you will raise the condition of the Irish poor; you will drain their bogs, increase their lands, facilitate their commerce, and accomplish acts of the utmost moment, promote their best and most permanent interests, and leave religion to work its own way [cheers]. She will find in the bosom of her God, and under the wing of Almighty Providence, an ample protection: and, amidst all these changes, she will find an easy and direct pathway to the accomplishment of the end for which God designed her. And will a religious people like the Irish, acting under the influence of adoration far above the ordinary instinct of our nature, be slow to perceive the claims of truth, when she no longer comes to them in an unjust and insulting bearing? Do you think that such a shrewd people as the Irish will be conciliated by this paltry grant? Ireland's people must be infatuated with stupidity, not to see the obviousness of the insult. You do an injury to religion when you do wrong under the cover of her name; when you say, "In the name of God, in the cause of Christ, for the sake of the Redeemer, we will extract from your pockets one million and a half per annum, and stop your mouths with a paltry grant of £30,000" [cheers]. Excuse me, I feel as an Englishman in this matter; I feel so disgraced at the position into which the government has thrown itself and the nation, that I want language to express my abhorrence of it [loud cheers]. I sympathise with my catholic fellow-countrymen; I would call them neighbours, friends, and brethren, as far as they give me leave to entertain with freedom the judgment which I form with respect to them. And whenever I have an opportunity of standing by their side, and battling with

them to the highest point in my power for their entire emancipation from government grants and restraints, let them say I am no more a Christian or a man if I do not grasp it from my heart [the rev. gentleman resumed his seat amid enthusiastic and repeated cheering].

The resolution was unanimously adopted, as was also another resolution, for a petition to the House of Commons against the proposed grant, which was proposed and seconded by Dr DAVIES and Dr MOORE.

Thanks having been voted to the Chairman, who returned thanks.

Mr DAVIS, of Belfast, came forward, and proceeded to address the meeting, amidst many expressions of impatience, in repudiation of Roman catholicism, which he denounced as the source and cause of all the poverty and wretchedness by which Ireland had been so long characterised. The feeling of the meeting, however, became so strong against him, that Mr Stovel came forward to entreat silence, which was obtained, but Mr Davis having declined to proceed further, the meeting adjourned at half-past ten o'clock.

THE GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.—A petition, most influentially signed by the electors of the Dublin University, against the proposed grant to Maynooth without previous inquiry into the system of education pursued in that institution, has been forwarded to the members of the college for presentation to the House of Commons. This document had been only twenty-four hours in existence, and had already received a fair number of signatures, including the names of several who, by taking such a step, have in some degree compromised their hopes of professional advancement.—An anti-Maynooth meeting of the citizens of Dublin was held on Monday, in the round room of the Rotunda, which was fully attended. One of the city members (Mr Grogan) presided. The Earl of Roden was not even present, although it was confidently stated that his lordship would take the chair on the occasion. The principal speakers were Archdeacon Magee and Messrs R. H. M. Eyre, A. S. Walker, T. D. Gregg, and R. J. McGhee. The speeches and resolutions were most bitter in denouncing popery.—On Monday a numerous meeting, comprising persons of all sects and parties, was held at Cheltenham, on the same subject. Mr F. Close, incumbent of Cheltenham, was in the chair, and the principal speaker. He strongly denounced popery, but in a less acrimonious manner than many other speakers on the same subject have done. He asked how it was that the Irish could raise so large an amount of rent for O'Connell, and yet not endow Maynooth themselves? He thus spoke of the new principle of supporting all religions:—

Now he would look to another system, which was the very antipodes of this—he meant the American—that country which recognises no religion, he preferred to that which recognises every religion, and sooner would he see the church separated from the state—sooner would he see her removed from that high position in which she had sat—and as long as she had been so seated, Britain had been glorious—sooner would he let her go, than Britain should do anything contrary to Christianity [loud cheers].

It is much to be deplored that the meetings of the church party, which are exclusively devoted to the denunciation of popery, should be reported in the daily papers, while those of dissenters, who oppose the grant on the same ground as Roman catholics themselves, might, and, according to their declared views, ought to do, are unnoticed in any of them but the *Morning Advertiser*. In agreement with the spirit of an article in yesterday's *Times*, which shows a disposition to abandon the Premier on this question, that journal this morning devotes considerable space to reports of meetings against the grant.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COLONIAL ACCOUNTS.—Dr BOWRING brought forward his motion for a select committee to inquire into the state of the colonial accounts, and the means of improving them. He rested his motion on the fact that we possessed forty-one colonies, containing a population of 5,000,000—that the imports from those colonies into the United Kingdom amounted to £10,000,000 or £11,000,000 sterling—that the exports from the United Kingdom into those colonies amounted to nearly £17,000,000; of which, nearly one half was of British produce and of British manufactures—that those colonies employed 3,000 vessels and 900,000 tons—that no accounts from them were ever laid before the House, but only abstracts of them—that those accounts were kept in a very irregular way—and that the same system of keeping them did not prevail in any two colonies. He contended that we ought to have a colonial budget annually, and that we ought to watch over the receipts and expenditure of the colonial government with the same vigilance which we employed in examining the receipts and expenditure of the administration at home. At present the accounts of our colonies were perpetually in arrear. Mr HUME seconded the motion. Mr HOPE did not, on the part of government, object to it, but expected little from the result of the inquiry. The motion was accordingly agreed to.

OPENING LETTERS FOR FOREIGN DESPOTS.—Mr SHELL next brought on his motion, expressing in specific terms the regret of the House that letters addressed to a foreigner residing in this country should have been opened without his knowledge, and that information in reference to disturbances in the papal states, obtained by such means, should have been communicated to a foreign power. He reviewed minutely the circumstances preceding and accompanying the outbreaks of Calabria. The Earl of ABERDEEN had disclaimed the responsibility of issuing warrants for opening the letters of Mr Mazzini, and as it was well known that the warrants

must have issued from the Home Secretary, it was to ascertain at whose desire they had been issued. No names had been communicated; but a Bow street officer required only a clue to pursue the chain of evidence. Feeling that the system of espionage pursued by this country was disgraceful to its character, he concluded an eloquent and effective speech by proposing his motion. Sir JAMES GRAHAM went into a minute statement of facts, contending that no letter from the Bandieras, dated at Corfu, had been opened by the British government, or had been seen by the Earl of Aberdeen. It was in October, 1843, that he (Sir James Graham), the only secretary of state then in London, had brought under his attention the fact of the disturbances at Bologna, and he was waited upon by the Austrian minister to complain of the inflammatory publications relating to the Italian States which issued from the press of Malta. He had replied, that there was no power to interfere with the liberty of the press in Malta. The Austrian minister then intimated, that the movement was not confined to Malta, for a person residing in London was the chief agent in fomenting these disturbances. For the first time the name of Mazzini was then brought under his attention; and in the following January a communication took place between himself and Earl Aberdeen on the subject of these insurrectionary movements. The Austrian minister stated, that they had their origin in London, and that it was from this centre the peace of Europe was menaced. After narrating several facts to the prejudice of Mr Mazzini, Sir J. Graham said—It was under information of this nature respecting the character of Mr Mazzini, that he had issued the warrant for opening his letters in the month of March, 1844—a warrant which was not issued at the instance of any foreign person or power whatever. Everything that was done was purely of a ministerial character. The letters were opened, and copies forwarded unread to the Foreign secretary, to be used at his discretion. Mr T. DUNCAN regarded the statement of Sir James Graham respecting Mr Mazzini as calumnious of an absent man, unable to defend himself. He dwelt at some length upon the question; and, after some observations from Mr WARBURTON, there was a division, when the motion was rejected by 52 to 38.—The House then went into committee on the Excise acts, in order to pass resolutions with a view to the repeal of the glass duties. After some discussion on the subject of allowance for drawbacks, the resolutions were agreed to, and a bill was ordered to be brought in for repealing the duties on glass.

We are informed, by a correspondent, that Viscount Holmesdale will be invited to offer himself as a candidate for West Kent, to supply the vacancy caused by the elevation of Lord Marham to the peerage, by the lamented death of the Earl of Romney.—*Times*.

We are assured that Archdeacon Samuel Wilberforce is to be the new Dean of Westminster.—*Treasury paper*.

An interesting correspondence has taken place between the committee of the British Anti-slavery Society and the secretary of state for Foreign affairs, relative to the right of search. We have received copies of the same, but have not space this week further to refer to it.

SWIFT TRAINS.—We understand that trains will shortly be started to accomplish the distance between Liverpool and London, 204 miles, in six hours, being at the rate of nearly five and thirty miles an hour. The Great Western already runs between London and Bristol, 118 miles, in four hours. The Brighton also runs at an accelerated pace; and we hear that, in a short time, the London and Birmingham will travel between London and Birmingham in three hours.

HORRIBLE MURDER IN ST GILES'S.—On Monday night, at eleven o'clock, a dreadful murder was perpetrated at a brothel in George street, St Giles's. A man, and a woman of abandoned character, named Mary Brothers, were in a room together on the ground floor, when about that time shrieks of "Murder!" were heard to proceed from thence. Before the alarm could be given, the man had escaped from the house, and the body of the woman was found doubled up in a corner formed by the projection of the fire place. Life was entirely extinct. A surgeon was speedily on the spot, who found a deep and wide gash in the central part of the back of the neck, which penetrated directly through to the front, and had separated the jugular vein, and probably the carotid artery. In addition to other wounds also—perhaps five or six in number—there was a deep one in the chest, penetrating to the sternum. The instrument of this foul murder was a sharp-pointed carving knife, which was found with its point jagged and broken in one of the wounds of the victim, and which had been purchased but a few minutes previous to the perpetration of the deed, at the shop of Mr Oldham, cutler, a few doors from the corner of George street. The murderer has not yet been apprehended, and his name is not known, but the police have a full description of his person. He is known by sight, by several women in the neighbourhood.

CORN MARKET. - MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	2580	2050	4700			
Scotch						
Irish	430	2830			
Foreign ..						

The trade is very flat, and prices are falling.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"W. True." We have glanced at the subject in our "Summary."
 "An Old Independent." We really cannot enter upon that controversy at the present time.
 "T. I. Graham." We cannot insert an appeal founded upon grounds which we deem to be unfit for dissenters to occupy.
 The memoir of Mr John Mitchell, of Aberdeen, shall be inserted, unless the current of events should demand all our space.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
 For 7 lines....5s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
 For every additional line..... 4d.

Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1845.

SUMMARY.

THE principal intelligence of the week comes from the west. The arrivals from the United States bring with them an account of the last acts of Congress, and the inaugural address of the new president, Mr Polk. The annexation of Texas has been determined upon, and the chief magistrate declares his hearty desire to carry it into effect. Upon the Oregon question also, notwithstanding that negotiations are still pending, he pronounces a confident opinion in favour of the American claims. He reads a severe lecture, under the cover of general terms, to the active and zealous abolitionists of the north. He advises the payment, by all the states, of their just debts, and he declares for a revenue regulated in its amount by the wants of the executive, and adjusted, in its proportions, in such manner as to afford incidental protection only. Much as we deplore the annexation of Texas, or the occupation of Oregon, we trust the British government will not unwisely interfere, or attempt to remove one evil by the substitution of another and much larger one. For our own parts, we could be well content to see Canada peacefully separated from this country. In one shape or another, it has proved a serious burden to the British people, and a fruitful source of vexation and of crime.

The agitation against the permanent endowment of Maynooth College is widening and deepening. The dissenters at length are on the move. In all parts there are signs of activity. The British Anti-state-church Association, we rejoice to observe, have published the views held by the Executive Committee on this important matter. They have placed their opposition upon the right basis—a remark equally applicable to several other organised associations of nonconformists. At Norwich, Reading, and other important places, public meetings have been held. In the metropolis several are on the eve of being assembled. Petitions, we hear, are likely to come up from most dissenting congregations. We hope they will all be based upon a sound principle, and be signed as numerous as possible by every one, male and female, capable of understanding the merits of the question. No time, however, is to be lost. Sir R. Peel will assuredly hurry on his measure; and this, the rather, as the *Times* is veering round against him. Whatever steps, therefore, are taken, should be taken, if possible, within the next fortnight. The proposal of government is more insidious, and carries with it consequences more earnestly to be deprecated, than those which stirred the zeal of the nonconforming body when the Factories Education bill was put forward by Sir James Graham. The opposition to it, therefore, we hope will be equally prompt, decided, and successful; and if we beat the tory cabinet upon this measure, we shall have achieved a most important victory for the future.

The tenant-farmers in many parts of the country have at length mustered resolution enough to give audible expression to their complaints of the treatment they have received at the hands of the government which they were instrumental in placing in office. At one agricultural meeting they responded to the toast of "Her Majesty's ministers," by turning down their glasses; at others, their representatives have been severely reprimanded, and threatened with ejection for betraying their interests; and in one of the southern counties the farmers seriously entertain the intention of returning none but those of their own class to represent them in parliament. A still more significant indication of the awakening suspicions of the tenant-farmers is to be found in a resolution unanimously adopted by the Yoxford Farmers' club, to the effect that "long leases, based on an equitable corn rent, would operate with equal benefit to the landlord, tenant, and labourer." These are hopeful symptoms, inasmuch as they indicate a distrust on the part of agriculturists, not only of government, but of those who have hitherto assumed to themselves the designation of the "farmer's friends." Let a bold stand be made on these two questions alone, "long leases" and "corn rents," and, to quote the language of the *Suffolk Chronicle*, "the tenantry would soon

discover that something more than a 'protection' to the interests of agriculture is required by the tax-eaters."

During the past week a conference of trades' delegates, representing a hundred thousand of the labouring population of the country, has been held in London, with the view of adopting measures for the protection of industry, and for the formation of an association to take cognisance of all measures adopted by the legislature, bearing on the interests of the industrious classes, and to promote their social condition. The deliberations of the body were conducted with a moderation and ability which have extorted commendations even from the *Times*. Such exhibitions cannot fail to convince the electoral body of the safety, as well as the justice, of conceding to the working classes their political rights.

On Monday evening the House of Commons re-assembled after the Easter recess, but its proceedings were of but secondary importance. Mr Wakley was to have submitted his motion on the subject of post-office espionage, and the treatment of his colleague, Mr Duncombe, by the government; but, through what he designated as the "sharp practice" of the Premier, the question was not allowed to come on for discussion. The navy estimates, which propose an increase of 4,000 men to our present immense establishments, were then brought forward, and gave rise to much discussion. Sir C. Napier re-opened the subject of the defective construction of ships of war, and Lord Palmerston, in an elaborate speech, reviewed and censured the conduct of government in reference to the right of search. Mr Hume and Mr Williams offered a single-handed opposition to the increase of our naval force, but, as usual, without success. The vote was, consequently, agreed to.

CUI BONO?

Is there anything peculiar to the atmosphere of St Stephen's, that they who habitually breathe it should be unable to take a common-sense view of any and every ecclesiastical subject? Cannot these gentlemen perceive that two and two make four? Or are they all, to a man, homœopaths in politics, confident that the shortest method of curing national disease is by aggravating it? It is, indeed, curious, and withal melancholy, to observe, how contentedly and gaily the liberalism which has no polar star of principle to guide its course, falls into the beaten track of tyranny, and sings its songs of freedom with as conscious an air of triumph as though it were just entering upon the borders of the political elysium. As though history were an old almanack, and experience had always lied, utterly regardless of all that is taking place around them, and stark blind to the state motives which peer from behind state measures, our radical legislators, the professed friends of the people, are about to redress Ireland's wrongs by additional ecclesiasticism, and to silence her just discontent, not by a boon to her heart, but by a bribe upon her tongue. What fatuity possesses them?

Surely, if there is one truth to which the history of nations has more loudly, more feelingly, more convincingly, spoken, than another, it is this—that the progress of society is by no class so instinctively or so successfully obstructed, as by that of a state priesthood. It matters nothing what may have been their creed—catholic, protestant, or presbyterian—they have always been the aptest tools of despotism. No servants of oppressive governments have ever done their work with such a zest as they. Nor is this wonderful. Covering their own pretensions as ministers of God with the mantle of civil authority, and identifying the validity of their message with the sanction it has received from the secular magistrate, it is plain that all their earthly interests are bound up with the ruling few, rather than the suffering many. It is their business to render oppression safe, by pleading in its favour the will of heaven. To poison conscience, to stifle inquiry, to hunt down all intellectual independence, to hinder the diffusion of knowledge, to wink at aristocratic vices, to shore up all kinds of monopoly, to foster into gigantic strength the spirit of intolerance—have these things, or have they not, been the ordinary work, in every age, of state-supported priestism? Will any of the whigs be pleased to tell us that, and to verify their affirmation by historical evidence? Will Mr Hume, or Mr Roebuck, or any member of that ilk, give us an honest answer to that question, and, having done so, state his reasons for believing that Ireland's social and political disorders are to be cured by more church?

To-morrow evening, the first minister of the Crown will move the House of Commons for leave to bring in a bill "to amend the acts relating to the college of Maynooth." Not a few members of the legislature will regard themselves as acting in the true spirit of religious liberty, in lending their aid, on this occasion, to the government. What will be their motive? By what views will they regulate their conduct? by what reasons justify their votes? At present we are limited to conjecture—but if our guesses swerve not from the mark, then, we think, we shall find it no difficult

task to prove, that these gentlemen are in pursuit of as absurd a day-dream as ever misled overweening politicians.

The proposal of the government has, we admit, an external aspect of plausibility. It looks like the commencement of a system of conciliation. It is superscribed with that most captivating of phrases—"Justice to Ireland." That it is a small measure, in itself considered, will strike the minds of both friends and foes; but friends and foes also are fully agreed that it is a measure which carries within itself a new and most important principle, and which, if successful, is intended to pave the way for the maintenance of the Roman catholic priesthood out of the national funds. It may seem, therefore, to statesmen, who, on ecclesiastical matters, habitually confound things that differ, a late, although somewhat insignificant instalment of that debt which is due to the overwhelming majority of the Irish people—and on this ground those representatives who profess liberal opinions, may base their support of the government proposal.

To this our reply may, perhaps, best be couched in the form of inquiry. *Cui bono?* we ask. In what way will the Roman catholic population of Ireland derive advantage from the connexion of their priesthood with the civil power? What substantial benefit will it yield them? It will not repair the wrong inflicted upon them by the existence of a wealthy and comparatively sinecure protestant establishment. It will not alter the tenure of land. It will not drain bogs, nor furnish employment, nor establish manufactures, nor promote education. In no respect, affecting the temporal well-being of the population of Ireland, will it be an improvement of things as they are. Nor can it surely be contended that the measure, if carried into effect, will largely promote the mental and moral interests of the people. State endowments do not usually infuse additional activity into the priesthoods who receive them. If Romanism be deemed the fittest form of religion for the inhabitants of Ireland—if it be most congenial with their wishes, and best adapted to their wants—a question upon which we shall at present venture no remark—we beg to ask whether it is not already in vigorous operation? or whether state support is calculated to make it more earnest, more faithful, more self-denying, or more successful than it now is? If not, then how can its establishment by the civil power be regarded as, in any sense, due to the people of the sister island?

We must be permitted to inquire further, whether the main reason of the state for venturing upon this overture be not to pacify the turbulence of the Irish Roman catholic priesthood? What does that mean? What, but to separate them from the people upon whose voluntary contributions they now depend, and with whose political hopes and fears they are compelled in some measure to sympathise. Will it be a boon to the suffering Irish population to throw tainted meat to their watch-dogs, and thus to leave them defenceless—to bribe their spiritual teachers, and render future agitation impossible of success? Is this what our radical members of parliament understand by "justice to Ireland?" Will this remove one single substantial cause of discontent? and will it not deprive that discontent of the power of articulate expression? That the majority of the Irish will gain nothing from the present contemplated policy of government, is both certain and obvious; that they will lose much—much of that political importance, which has, in times past, been strong enough to wrest from the state a redress of some of their grievances, is no less certain, and, we should have supposed, not a whit less obvious.

It may be urged that the education and the maintenance of the Roman catholic priesthood will tend to soothe the irritation of wounded pride, and to soften down somewhat of that prejudice which has been excited in the minds of the people, by the outrage done to their feelings by past persecutions and neglect. The hope implied in this plea is utterly fallacious, so long as a protestant establishment is upheld. Every argument now adduced in support of the modest proposal of Sir R. Peel will hereafter be employed, and will tell with increased effect against the continued maintenance of a church opposed to the views of the majority. There is but one way of doing justice to Ireland. Withdraw the present establishment altogether—withhold the *regium donum*—let the religion of the people take care of itself—throw open the gates of the Dublin university to men of all creeds—and, when you have thus removed the ulcer which produces inflammation over the whole system, it will be a work of comparative ease, so to adjust legislation to the wants of Ireland, as to secure her contentment, her gratitude, and her prosperity.

SYMPATHY TURNED AWRY BY LAW.

THE execution of John Tawell for the murder of Sarah Hart has brought out in strong relief one of the most striking proofs of the impolicy of death punishments. Of the wretched culprit we shall say but little. We should be glad to believe in the depth and sincerity of his seeming penitence.

It appears to us, however, that he died as he had lived—the unchanged victim of an all-absorbing selfishness. The passion showed itself in one of its commonest forms—the love of approbation. This, indeed, is the key to his whole history, and unlocks every anomaly which that history contains. His early industry, his amiable deportment, his deeds of benevolence, his fatal crime, his conduct previously to, and after, his conviction, show him to have been a man whose thoughts never veered from that single point—his own reputation. So intense was this master passion of his soul as to steel his bosom against all the ordinary emotions of humanity. Remorse never touched him. The weeks of seclusion from the world which he passed in Aylesbury gaol slipped over him without once compelling his attention to the atrocity of his crime—and, confident of his escape, he had made preparations for celebrating it, in his own domestic circle, with festivity and mirth. The conscious murderer was intent upon receiving unabashed the congratulations of his friends. He feared not to see his place occupied by the ghost of the poor woman, whose virtue he had ruined, and whom he despatched without a moment's warning into eternity. He thought, he cared, nothing about her. And, at last, when convicted and condemned to death, he meets his broken-hearted wife with the calmness of innocence, prays with her, takes leave of her, without once adverting to the cruel wrong he had inflicted upon her confidence, and is hurried out of the world, leaving behind him a written confession, the particulars of which he forbids the chaplain to divulge.

If ever man were destitute of all claim to popular sympathy, that man was Tawell. How, then, has it happened, that he has been, from first to last, the theme of so much interest? Why was his trial looked forward to with such yearnings of curiosity? Why was his history given to the public with such minuteness of detail? How was it that the morning journals thought it worth their while to report, from day to day, all that could be gathered from gaol officials respecting his deportment? What elevated this man, whose conduct was one disgusting tissue of selfish baseness, upon a pedestal of fame, and threw around him the interest of a martyr? We answer—the death-punishment which the law had placed at the end of his career. Had any vindication of justice but this been regarded as the certain result of convicted guilt, sympathy would never have been thus turned away from the victim to the assassin—a morbid curiosity would never have been excited—the crime of the man would never have been looked at through the natural compassion which all but hides it—and men would have viewed with unmingled abhorrence and loathing, that history which now awakens emotions of pity.

It is a common observation, that the surest way to be converted into a public pet is to be convicted of an atrocious murder. There is much exaggeration in this remark—there is also too much truth. Do the generality of mankind, then, look with favour upon the deadliest of crimes? Far from it. But who can see a fellow-creature led to the scaffold without a predominant sentiment of commiseration? We overlook his guilt to fix our regard upon his fate. We lose sight of what he has done in what he is about to suffer. Death, when he comes armed as an avenger of the law, startles most of us into some interest for his victim. We begin to inquire who he is? what has been his past course? into what relations he has entered? and what feeling he exhibits when the stern foe glares in his very face. It is all very well to call this puling sentimentality; but it is one of the genuine promptings of our nature. Were the criminal condemned instead to perpetual exile, ignominy, and labour, our sympathies would never thus be deflected in his favour. Shiploads of convicts might go off without shaking, even for a moment, our abhorrence of their crimes. No thrilling sensation in the public mind would, in such case, take off from the assassin more than half his shame, and much even of his consciousness of guilt. The wretch would shrink from meeting the gaze of society, but for the tragical close of his career; and society in its turn would seal, however reluctantly, yet without a single misgiving, the decree of justice. There would be no shaking of hands with the prisoner—no preservation of memorials—no kind-hearted, but mistaken fanaticism—no forced repentances—no daily bulletins from the condemned cell—no romance, nor pomp, tinged with a hue of piety; but a hard, matter-of-fact execution of the sentence, amid the disgust of the public for the horrible wickedness which rendered it necessary. And to this we must come if we would have law respected and human life regarded with becoming veneration. Nothing is less likely to check the perpetration of murder, than that legal vengeance which converts the villain into the martyr.

The sum paid annually out of the taxes to Lord Ellenborough for his "late" office of Clerk to the Queen's bench, is £7,700 a year. He enjoyed this enormous sinecure while he held his governorship of India.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

A POLITICAL CURIOSITY—A TORY OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

(From the *Examiner*.)

If the Duke of Newcastle had felt for others as well as he feels for himself, he would justly have stood high in the honour and esteem of society.

He complains of prejudice against him. He incurred odium by persecuting men for fidelity to their opinions. He eloquently complains now of his own mortifications from the same cause. The chalice has been returned to his own lips. The measure he has dealt out to others has been meted out to him. He asks why he is to be shunned as plague-spotted, for having acted on the dictation of principle and conviction. This is the very question which his ejected tenants asked him when he asserted his right to do as he pleased with his own.

The right of acting according to his convictions, which the Duke so manfully claims for himself, he has trampled on in others. He has not observed the rule to do as he would be done by. He is undergoing the just penalty. He touchingly describes himself as under interdict for his adherence to his principles.

The Duke's letter to the *Standard* is very natural, and very full of feeling, and therefore eloquent. There are passages in it which to us seem quite beautiful.

The occasion of the Duke's expostulation was the groundless charge as to the Hafod estate, which was lately the subject of discussion in the House of Commons; this leads the Duke to advert to the prejudice existing against him, and to a review of his past and present position in life, his petty rewards and great mortifications. In all this there is much simplicity, moderation, and candour; and the impression left on our minds is, that whatever the Duke of Newcastle may be, his dispositions are good, and that, if his understanding corresponded with his other qualities, the result would be a character of no ordinary merit.

Upon reading this letter, the reflection will occur to many minds, how poor a thing it is to be a great duke! The humblest of the humble could hardly find his situation more barren and dreary than the lord of Clumber. He is the Alexander Selkirk of the great world, with the aggravation of the solitude of the shunned instead of that of the desert.

His great yearning appears to be for the good opinion of his fellow men, and that has been denied him, as we contend from his own fault—from his too unscrupulous eagerness as a politician. The baubles of distinction he certainly does not seem inclined to overrate. Of the garter he says that "the fees are commensurate with the honour." He talks of the disfranchisement of the rotten boroughs as a robbery amounting to £200,000 in his case, but as he avers that he never sold a seat, we do not comprehend how it can be rated by him as a pecuniary loss. He alleges that he has lost power, lost wealth, lost friends, and finds himself apart and alone, marked out for avoidance.

The Duke begins his letter in this strain—

"It has always been my strange fatality to have my motives and actions misunderstood, and probably few men living, not being public men, have been more vilified and injured than I have been. I long endured this perversity with patience and resolution, but at last I became disheartened and disgusted; I found myself standing alone in the maintenance of opinions which I believed to be right; everything fell away from me, one event after another tended to depress my spirits and my energy, and to remove those inducements which stimulated me to exertion. My health, my peace of mind, my circumstances (as I am not ashamed to avow, arising from no discreditable cause), required my retirement for a season."

He ends it in this—

"When I have differed I have never done so from waywardness or faction, but as a painful performance of a duty—from an inward persuasion that though interest and ease forbade it, principle and conviction dictated and required it. These have been, and I trust will ever continue to be, my motives, my incentives, and my guides; and although I will not pretend to assert that I have been right, I can safely declare that I believed myself not to have been wrong."

"Many, perhaps, may remark—More fool he for his pains; why does he not follow the ways of the world? I can only reply, that such ways are not my ways, and that I could derive no satisfaction from exchanging principle for expediency. So, like a wounded deer, I am discountenanced by the whole herd."

"My present position seems to be this:—Though a determined upholder of the church of England and of the state—of protestantism and of protestant ascendancy—an undisguised conservative of the ancient and once admired British constitution and the institutions of our country—I am disclaimed by those who I am compelled to think should be what I am."

"You and others may think that I have written bitterly. It may be so; neither my recollections nor my present situation are very pleasing or flattering. However, I may say with the Frenchman—*J'ai tout perdu que mon honneur*; and that, I thank God, is preserved to me, and it is a true and lasting consolation—I care for, I want nothing for myself that my sovereign or a minister can confer upon me. Fortunately for myself, I am unambitious of power, and best pleased in the endeavour to be a good subject and a good citizen; and it is well that I am so, as I might not inappropriately liken myself to an infected plague man. For who dares to come in contact with me? To do anything for my benefit or advantage would be to render himself suspected; he would immediately be clapped into quarantine, and subjected to potent fumigations and the severest scrutiny."

And this is the lot of a tory; whether right or wrong, true to his principles, such as they are. He is stranded, and the tide has for ever ebbed away from him.

Hostility to change is his governing maxim, and he sees all changed about him, and he himself treated as useless as dangerous, because he remains unchanged.

Sir Robert Peel has prosecuted some men for poaching in a preserve of his, called *Turn-about field*. *Turn-about field* is at Drayton; we mention this fact lest people should look for it in Westminster. It is well for Sir Robert that there is no game law in politics, and that he can poach in safety on the whig manors, while he keeps *Turn-about field* so strictly to himself.—*Examiner*.

General News.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

The packet-ship *George Washington* has brought very important intelligence from the United States; the Texas annexation having passed both Houses of Congress, and received the signature of the President; the Oregon Occupation bill having been rejected; and the new President having been installed into office, and promulgated his views and opinions in a "message." The bill for the annexation of Texas passed the Senate on the 27th February, the Representatives on the 28th, and was returned, with the signature of the President, on the 1st of March.

The Mexican minister has, in the interim, declared his intention of protesting against the measure. An express has been forwarded to his government to announce the passing of the bill. The impression appears to be pretty general that the Mexicans will view it as an open act of hostility, and will probably declare war. The Oregon Occupation bill was moved in the Senate on the 3rd, and, on a vote, was lost—23 against, and 21 for the measure. The cause of this is stated to be the intimation from Mr Tyler, that matters were in a fair way for a speedy settlement with Great Britain. The affair, therefore, remains, as it did, and is left for the Polk administration.

The Reduction of Postage bill has passed both Houses, amid a perfect storm of opposition. The rate for letters is fixed at five cents under 300 miles, and double that sum for a further distance. The measure will crush the private mails, of which so many have been for a length of time in operation.

Florida and Iowa have been formally admitted into the Union as States, swelling the number of states to 28, and, as the papers remark, "not including Texas," which, of course, they fairly reckon on now.

On the 4th of March, James K. Polk, in the presence of some 30,000 people, entered upon his career as president of the United States. His inaugural address, which will be found below, is tempered with moderation, and has evidently been written to gain favour with both parties. He goes for Texas, Oregon, and every other territory that can be gained constitutionally. A revenue tariff is commended, protection to be the contingent only; but no specific alteration is threatened. He goes against abolition and a national bank, of course, and condemns repudiation, expressing a hope that the defaulting states will "pay up," as the late pressure of circumstances under which they have laboured shall have died away. On the whole, the public appear gratified with the "address." The concourse of people at Washington is stated to have been greater than on any previous occasion.

The President commences his address, which occupies upwards of two columns of the New York papers, with an expression of gratitude for having been chosen to his new office. He then enumerates the principles by which his administrative policy is to be guided. The constitution, he says, will be the chart by which he shall be directed. He enlarges upon the blessings secured to the United States by the federal union, and declares it to be one of the most sacred duties to perpetuate that union, believing that any attempt to disturb or destroy the terms of the existing compact, would lead to none other than the most ruinous and disastrous consequences.

Since the Union was formed (says he), the number of the states has increased from thirteen to twenty-eight: two of these have taken their position as members of the confederacy within the last week. Our population has increased from three to twenty millions. New communities and states are seeking protection under itsegis, and multitudes from the old world are flocking to our shores to participate in its blessings. Beneath its benign sway peace and prosperity prevail.

All distinctions of birth or rank have been abolished. All citizens, whether native or adopted, are placed upon terms of precise equality. All are entitled to equal rights and equal protection. No union exists between church and state, and perfect freedom of opinion is guaranteed to all sects and creeds.

Referring undoubtedly to slavery, he says:—

It is a source of deep regret that in some sections of our country misguided persons have occasionally indulged in schemes and agitations, whose object is the destruction of domestic institutions existing in other sections—institutions which existed at the adoption of the constitution, and were recognised and protected by it. All must see that, if it were possible for them to be successful in attaining their object, the dissolution of the union, and the consequent destruction of our happy form of government, must speedily follow.

To increase the attachment of our people to the Union, our laws should be just. Any policy which shall tend to favour monopolies, or the peculiar interests of sections or classes, must operate to the prejudice of the interests of their fellow-citizens, and should be avoided. With these views of the nature, character, and objects of the government and the value of the Union, I shall steadily oppose the creation of those institutions and systems which, in their nature, tend to pervert it from its legitimate purposes, and make it the instrument of sections, classes, and individuals. We need no national bank, or other extraneous institutions, planted around the government to control or strengthen it in opposition to the wish of its authors. Experience has taught us how unnecessary they are as auxiliaries of the public authorities—how impotent for good, and how powerful for mischief.

He promises to recommend to Congress, and, as far as the executive is concerned, to enforce, by all the means within his power, the strictest economy in the expenditure of the public money, which may be compatible with the public interests. He anticipates the time when the debt, which has grown out of the circumstances of the last few years, may be speedily paid off, and he congratulates his fellow-citizens on the entire restoration of the credit of the general go-

vernment of the Union, and that of many of the states.

"Happy," he adds, "would it be for indebted states, if they were freed from their liabilities, many of which were incautiously contracted. Although the government of the Union is neither in a legal nor a moral sense bound for the debt of the states, and it would be a violation of our compact of union to assume them, yet we cannot but feel a deep interest in seeing all the states meet their public liabilities, and pay off their just debts, at the earliest practical period."

With reference to taxation, he observes that—

"Justice and sound policy forbid the federal government to foster one branch of industry to the detriment of another, or to cherish the interests of one portion to the injury of another portion of our common country. I have heretofore declared to my fellow citizens, that, in my judgment, it is the duty of the government to extend, as far as it may be practicable to do so, by its revenue laws, and all other means within its power, fair and just protection to all the great interests of the whole Union, embracing agriculture, manufactures, the mechanic arts, commerce, and navigation." I have also declared my opinion to be 'in favour of a tariff for revenue,' and that, 'in adjusting the detail of such a tariff, I have sanctioned such moderate discriminating duties as would produce the amount of revenue needed, and, at the same time, afford reasonable incidental protection to our home industry,' and that I was 'opposed to a tariff for protection merely, and not for revenue.'"

He contends that all home interests should, as far as possible, be equally protected, and that to tax one branch of this home industry for the benefit of another, would be unjust. He thinks that in exercising a sound discretion in levying discriminating duties within the limit prescribed, care should be taken that it be done in a manner not to benefit the wealthy few, at the expense of the toiling millions, by taxing lowest the luxuries of life, or articles of superior quality and high price, which can only be consumed by the wealthy; and highest the necessities of life, or articles of coarse quality and low price, which the poor and great mass of our people must consume. He expresses himself favourably to the annexation of Texas. He says—

The republic of Texas has made known her desire to come into our Union, to form a part of our confederacy, and enjoy with us the blessings of liberty secured and guaranteed by our constitution. Texas was once a part of our country—was unwisely ceded away to a foreign power—is now independent, and possesses an undoubted right to dispose of a part or the whole of her territory, and to merge her sovereignty, as a separate and independent state, in ours. I congratulate my country that, by an act of the late Congress of the United States, the assent of this government has been given to the re-union; and it only remains for the two countries to agree upon the terms, to consummate an object so important to both.

He regards the question of annexation as belonging exclusively to the United States and Texas, and says that—

Foreign powers should look on the annexation of Texas, not as the conquest of a nation seeking to extend her dominions by arms and violence, but as the peaceful acquisition of a territory once her own, by adding another member to our confederation, with the consent of that member—thereby diminishing the chances of war, and opening to them new and ever-increasing markets for their productions. To Texas the re-union is important; because the strong protecting arm of our government would be extended over her, and the vast resources of her fertile soil and genial climate would be speedily developed; while the safety of New Orleans, and of our whole south-western frontier, against hostile aggression, as well as the interests of the whole Union, would be promoted by it. None can fail to see the danger to our safety and future peace, if Texas remains an independent state, or becomes an ally or dependency of some foreign nation in the possession of more power than herself. Perceiving no valid objections to the measure, and many reasons for its adoption, vitally affecting the peace, the safety, and the prosperity of both countries, I shall, on the broad principle which formed the basis and produced the adoption of our constitution, and not in any narrow spirit of sectional policy, endeavour, by all constitutional, honourable, and appropriate means, to consummate the expressed will of the people and government of the United States, by the re-annexation of Texas to our Union at the earliest practicable period.

Nor will it become in a less degree my duty to assert and maintain, by all constitutional means, the right of the United States to that portion of our territory which lies beyond the Rocky Mountains. Our title to the country of the Oregon is "clear and unquestionable," and already are our people preparing to perfect that by occupying it with their wives and children. But eighty years ago, our population was confined on the west by the ridge of the Alleghanies. Within that period—within the lifetime, I might say, of some of my hearers—our people, increasing to many millions, have filled the eastern valley of the Mississippi, adventurously ascended the Missouri to its head springs, and are already engaged in establishing the blessings of self-government in valleys, of which the rivers flow to the Pacific. The world beholds the peaceful triumphs of the industry of our emigrants. To us belongs the duty of protecting them adequately, wherever they may be upon our soil. The jurisdiction of our laws and the benefits of our republican institutions should be extended over them in the distant regions which they have selected for their homes. The increasing facilities of intercourse will easily bring the States, of which the formation in that part of our territory cannot be long delayed, within the sphere of our federative union. In the meantime, every obligation imposed by treaty or conventional stipulation should be sacredly respected.

In the management of foreign relations, his aim will be to observe a careful respect for the rights of other nations, whilst the rights of the States will be the subjects of constant watchfulness. He declares that no opportunity will be lost of cultivating a favourable understanding with foreign governments; and he concludes by supplicating the Divine Being to continue to bless the people of the land.

The new Cabinet is announced, and will consist as follows:—James Buchanan, secretary of

state; Robert J. Walker, secretary of the treasury; W. L. Marcy, secretary of war; George Bancroft, secretary of the navy; Cave Johnson, postmaster-general; Mr Saunders, attorney-general. It will be seen that Mr Calhoun is not in; his ultra opinions in regard to Great Britain preventing him occupying a seat in the cabinet, or going on a foreign embassy, without embarrassing the administration. He will be returned as senator to Congress at the next autumn election.

The Montreal papers deny positively the truth of the report of Lord Metcalfe's resignation. The vote congratulating his lordship on his elevation was strongly contested in the House of Assembly, and some bitter taunts were launched at his lordship. The vote was carried, however, by 45 to 25. An appropriation of 160,000 dollars to the indemnification of losses in Canada West during the rebellion of 1837, was carried by a majority of 12 in the Canadian legislature.

SWITZERLAND.

The Zurich Gazette, of the 23rd, announces that the Prussian Ambassador had communicated a despatch to the President, precisely of the same complexion as that forwarded to him by the Prince Metternich.

Most of the Deputies left Zurich on the 21st, to return to their respective cantons. Much anxiety was felt by the directory, as there was reason to apprehend some new movements on the part of the free corps; and Lucerne persisted in calling in the Jesuits, although the General of that order had been exhorted by the Pope not to let them enter the canton. Great activity had been observable during the last sittings of the Diet among the radicals; several well-known leaders of the free corps had been seen at Zurich with their badges of command; and some meetings of the same party had been held, at which a member of the Diet had spoken with extraordinary violence.

Several arrests had taken place at Lucerne, of refugees, charged with being engaged in organising a conspiracy in that town.

The Zurich correspondent of the *Constitutionnel* writes on the 24th instant, that the greatest agitation prevailed throughout the cantons contiguous to Lucerne. The free corps were under arms, and the irritation created by the notes presented by the foreign Ministers was daily increasing. The Directory, in those critical circumstances, was hesitating to call out the military contingent of the canton, and it was the general opinion that the extraordinary diet would be again convoked in a few days.

The *Swiss Universal Gazette* publishes some intelligence from Berne of the 25th inst., which says that the committee of the society for the maintenance of general peace had addressed to the Vorort and to the Swiss cantons a letter imploring them, in the name of the gospel, to avoid the shedding of blood, and to reflect seriously that the result of a violent struggle would compromise as well the interest of the conquering party as that of the party conquered.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A GIGANTIC PROJECT.—The Washington correspondent of the *Augsburg Universal Gazette*, in speaking of a new railway line lately projected in the United States, gives the following particulars of the proposed undertaking:—

The treaty with China has made us aware of the necessity, not only of competing with the English in the commercial towns of the celestial empire, but of outstripping them altogether. In the same proportion as the European states are giving more and more the preference to the ancient route to India, and the Mediterranean is becoming the medium of the European trade with Asia, so we must exert ourselves to make the great ocean subservient to our purposes, and this is to be done by a connexion of the Atlantic with the great ocean. A proposal of this kind has already been submitted to Congress, and I hasten to communicate to you its principal outlines. Mr Whitney, one of our most enterprising New York merchants, proposes the construction of a railway from the western shore of Lake Erie to the navigable part of the Columbia river, in the Oregon territory, to become the future medium of the American-European trade with China. The length of this railroad would be 2,750 English miles, and the expenses of its construction are estimated at 50,000,000 dollars; it would be finished within the period of 25 years. Eight days would be sufficient to reach from New York the furthest end of the railway; the Columbia river would be navigated by steam, and steamers from its mouth would reach within 25 days Canton, Ningpo, or Amoy. The harbour of Amoy is considered as the best, and to it the steam navigation would be directed. The trip from New York to Amoy would thus only take about 30 days, and be a saving of nearly 120 days, considering the time now necessary to reach from England the port of Canton or any other place in China. A cargo of Chinese goods would arrive in London or Liverpool by way of America within 50 days, and the route via the Isthmus of Suez would certainly be neglected, as the soil of it belongs to barbarous nations, and the conveyance across it, even by railway, would offer little security. Not only Mexico and the states of South America, but also Europe, would be compelled to use the American high road of commerce, and the United States would have the advantage of importing direct Chinese and Indian goods, receiving all information from the Celestial Empire 20 to 24 days earlier than either England, France, or Holland. Our lakes would become the Mediterranean sea, and the weekly intercourse between the Atlantic and the great ocean would give to our merchants the key of the trade of the world. Mr Whitney asks from government no other assistance but the grant of 60 miles of country along the whole line of the railway, and engages himself, on the other hand, in his own name as well as for his heirs, to forward in all futurity, without any remuneration, all United States letters, ammunition of war, soldiers, seamen, and, in fact, everything relating to the central government.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TRADES' DELEGATES.—The meeting of delegates closed on Saturday, when Mr T. S. Duncombe, M.P., was present, in the chair. The reports as amended were put in and agreed to unanimously. The resolutions were to the effect,

1. That a society be formed to be called the "Association of United Trades for the Protection of Industry."

2. That a central committee be appointed to carry out the objects of the association, and that a fund be raised to defray the necessary expenses.

3. That the leading objects of the association may be divisible into two departments, one having reference to the influence of the legislature on the condition of the industrious classes; the second bearing on the efforts made by the trades to improve their own condition.

The other resolutions recommended the diffusion of information as to the means by which the trades might be benefited, and the redundant hands employed. It was agreed also that the meetings of the conference should be held at different towns or cities alternately. A somewhat lengthy argument took place with regard to the proposed land fund, which, some of the delegates argued, ought not to be made compulsory on all the trades; others, that its adoption would impede the progress of the great object of the conference. The consideration of the point was referred to the central committee, who were also instructed to give their gravest attention to the subject of the Short Hours bill, and to the necessity of conferring with government on the general sanitary condition of the working classes. On this important topic the conference expressed their opinion that, with regard to all trades occupied in sedentary employment, every means should be adopted to induce employers to provide healthy workshops in or near their premises. The conference was closed by a speech from Mr Duncombe. He said that one hundred delegates were present, representing 100,000 of the labouring population of England, and enough had been done to show, if the report of their proceedings went fairly before the world, that the industrious classes possess a degree of intelligence sufficient to enable them to insist on the removal of their burdens, and to obtain such removal, if indeed their peace and safety are dear to the upper classes. They had now proved that the object of the labourer was not to ask charity, but to demand justice, and that he was determined to have. Mr Duncombe concluded amidst reiterated cheers, and the conference was then dissolved, it being understood that the next meeting should take place in the last week of July. The majority of the delegates (says the *Times*) have throughout hitherto acquitted themselves very creditably, evincing a great deal more of acumen and accuracy of thought—nay, even of diction, than might be expected in persons accustomed to work more with the hand than the head.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT.—The *Times* reports a meeting of domestic servants, which was held at Hampstead, on the 1st instant, to take steps for obtaining a provision for aged servants. Mr Thomas Ainger, the incumbent, occupied the chair. Mr J. J. Beaham, a servant, proposed a petition to parliament, stating the impracticability of forming an effective association among the servants themselves, and suggesting a compulsory means of obtaining contributions—masters to deduct 6d. in the pound from the yearly wages of servants, and to pay the amount to government, with the assessed taxes; the proceeds to be expended in erecting asylums throughout the kingdom, supporting schools, and relieving aged or disabled members of the body, under divers restrictions. According to the petition, in one or more of the German states such institutions exist, and have succeeded. However, a committee of gentlemen was appointed to consider ulterior measures.

MR GIBBS AND THE PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK.—The contest in the parish of St Stephen's, Walbrook, continues. A vestry meeting, authenticated by the consent of the rector, was held on Thursday, when Messrs Flight and Rock were re-elected churchwardens. Mr Rock was absent, but Mr Flight reported the result of some further scrutiny of Mr Churchwarden Gibbs's accounts—for instance, under his administration, the payment for the poor increased at so great a rate, that in 1828 it was £860, in a parish of sixty houses; and Mr Gibbs was charged with letting a house belonging to the parish at £38 a year, to Mr Field, one of his supporters, though the house was worth £90 a year. Divers delays in the legal proceedings were also reported; and the vestry adjourned to the 9th May.

ST SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.—At a vestry meeting of the parishioners of St Saviour's, Southwark, held on Easter Tuesday, it was resolved to discontinue burying the dead in the graveyard of that parish, in consequence of its over-crowded state.

ST JOHN'S GATE.—This ancient remnant of ecclesiastical structure, in which, in 1713, Cave first printed the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and where Dr Johnson was a constant visitant, and which was threatened with demolition a few weeks since, under the new Building act, is about to be repaired, and restored, scaffolding having been erected around it for that purpose.

CHARGES AGAINST THE "HONOURABLE" AND "REVEREND" F. S. MONCKTON.—The diocesan inquiry into the charges of immoral conduct, against the Honourable and Reverend Frederick Smith Monckton, perpetual curate of St Peter's church, West Hackney, was resumed on Thursday; when the evidence in support of the accusation closed. It was of the same tenour as that previously given; but rather modified by the cross-examination of some of

the witnesses. The case for the defence was opened on Friday with a speech from Mr Warren, counsel for the curate; who entirely denied all the charges against his client, treating them as fabrications got up by Williams, the main evidence in support of the inquiry, and his wife. The witnesses examined were Lord Galway, brother of Mr Monckton; Mr Matthews, a surgeon; and Sarah Huggins, the servant with whom Mr Monckton is alleged to have had criminal intercourse, but who, in the course of her examination, stoutly denied everything that could at all justify an imputation on her master's conduct towards herself. She admitted having had twins, but that Mr Monckton "was not the father." On Saturday, the inquiry was again resumed, and, after a lengthened examination of witnesses, the commissioners retired for a short time. On their return, Dr Lushington said that they had determined to make a special report to the Bishop upon the charges.

With respect to the first and most important—namely, fornication—they were of opinion that the evidence before them was not sufficiently strong and conclusive to justify them in reporting that there was a *prima facie* ground for further proceedings; but they were also of opinion that circumstances had been admitted or proved which tended to excite great suspicion—he alluded to the fact, that not only were the children begotten upon the body of Sarah Huggins whilst she was a servant at the parsonage house, but that, with a full knowledge of this fact, Mr Monckton had visited her twice at Gravesend, and had taken her back to his own house; and she still remained one of his establishment. These facts had given rise to suspicions against Mr Monckton, who, instead of adopting without delay measures to liberate himself from these suspicions, had contented himself with a general denial. The commissioners were all of opinion that the course of conduct adopted by Mr Monckton (relieving him from the charge of fornication) had tended seriously to diminish and destroy his utility in the parish, and to create great scandal to the church. With respect to the next charge—that of intoxication—the commissioners equally concurred in opinion that there was not sufficient evidence to induce the Bishop to institute further proceedings on this head. With regard to the last charge—of general misconduct, bringing disgrace and scandal upon the church—the commissioners were all of opinion that, taking all the circumstances together, there was a *prima facie* ground for that charge. Their report would, therefore, be to acquit Mr Monckton of the main charges of fornication and of intoxication, but that his conduct respecting these women, and more especially Sarah Huggins, had been such as to bring scandal upon the church, and that, if the Bishop be so advised, there is sufficient *prima facie* ground for further proceedings upon that charge, so limited and defined. The formal report is to be read at ten o'clock on the morning of the 10th of April.

FEMALE SHOP-LIFTING.—Elizabeth Palmer, the widow who stole a piece of beef from a shop at Hoxton, was convicted of that offence, at the Middlesex sessions, on Tuesday. It appears that, so far from being a "lady-thief," the culprit is in very distressed circumstances, and it is averred that she was prompted by her poverty. Until the present time she had borne a good character. Her sentence was deferred, in order that inquiries might be made regarding her situation; and on Thursday she was ordered to be imprisoned for three months. In passing sentence, Mr Sergeant Adams, the assistant judge, said he had learnt she was dependent on a son, a mechanic, for support; and he condemned the practice of "dressing-up" police reports, as in this case.

The opening of the weather has given an impulse to the operations for making Victoria park, and a great many additional hands have been put on to commence laying out the plantations.

EXECUTION OF TAPPING.—A correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, writing on Easter Monday, says:—"To-day was fixed for the execution of Tapping, the man who committed the Bethnal Green murder. Whilst passing by Newgate, I inquired of a policeman if this last and terrible act of justice had taken place. 'Yes, sir,' was the reply; 'and he died like a brick. I never saw a man die pleasanter in my life. He had a smile on his countenance, and seemed to go out quite happy like! There was a crowd too, and he was cut down about nine o'clock!' So much for the moral influence of a 'hang' on the mind of a policeman; and has it not much the same on the minds of other people? Two pickpockets were committed, from Guildhall police office, for pursuing their vocation at the foot of the gallows.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE AT BLACKWALL.—On Saturday evening, and just at the hour when the men engaged in the extensive works of Messrs Ditchburn and Mare, iron steam boat builders, Orchard yard, Blackwall, were assembled to be paid, a report was circulated that a frightful loss of life had ensued from a portion of their massive buildings having given way, burying in its ruins a number of workmen. We are, however, happy to state that the loss of life and the injury of limb were not of the frightful extent that was at first anticipated. Eight bodies—two lifeless, and six more or less mangled—were found under the ponderous weight that crushed them. Happily, the great bulk of men (upwards of sixty in number) were outside of the gate, and thus escaped a frightful and a sudden death. Had the accident occurred at an earlier hour in the day, the loss of life must have been dreadful, as there were constantly passing to and fro, and close to it, between 500 and 600 men.

THE LATE EXPLOSION AT BLACKWALL.—The coroner's inquest on four more of the men killed by the explosion at Messrs Samuda's factory has resulted in a verdict similar to that which they gave with regard to Wright—namely, "Manslaughter" against Lowe. They also handed this declaration to the coroner:—

"The jury cannot close this investigation without expressing their opinion that the application of low-pressure boilers to high-pressure purposes is highly dangerous, and ought to be prohibited by law. And they are further of opinion that the important facts elicited in this inquiry should be laid before her Majesty's government, in the hope that some legislative enactment may be adopted, whereby, if possible, to prevent that fearful destruction to human life, which arises under the present imperfect system."

PROVINCIAL.

BREAKING-UP OF POLITICAL PARTIES.—Two hundred members of the Manchester Operative Conservative Association dined at the Corn Exchange on Tuesday. The association was broken up on Sir Robert Peel's accession to office, as no longer needed: it has now been re-formed, as no longer needless. The meeting was distinguished by the influential persons who were not there—that is, by the number of excuses sent. Among the absent was Mr Ferriand, who promised to come if he could, on condition that the dinner was "intended to support sound principles, not to support a faction."

"The Operative Conservative Associations were of immense influence in placing the present government in power; and they fought under the banner of 'the altar, the throne, and the cottage.' Sir R. Peel intends, in this present session, to throw down the altar of our faith, on which the throne has been erected; and ever since his accession to office he has supported with all his influence the poor law commissioners in their desolating warfare against the poor man's cottage." Lord John Manners, however, intimated that he withheld not only his presence but his concurrence—

"London, 11th March, 1845."

"Sir—In answer to your flattering invitation for the 25th instant, I beg leave to inform you, that my engagements during Easter recess would prevent me having the honour to accept it, did I fully and heartily concur in the objects of your proposed meeting; but I will frankly own to you, that I feel no affection or regard for that abstract something or nothing called 'conservatism,' and could not, therefore, even were I otherwise able to, take a part in the festival. In these days more distinctive principles and more decided acts are, in my opinion, required than conservatism affords, or is likely to afford. I would rather hear a body of right-principled Englishmen, such as will be assembled on the 25th instant, assert, for instance, their determination to maintain the integrity of the Welsh episcopate than 'the institutions of the country'—which may mean institutions of any sort. I know the frank and honest character of the Manchester men too well to fear that you or they will resent this brief expression of my convictions on this subject, however they may dissent from them."

"With a hearty wish that old tory principles and sympathies may once more strike a deep root into the English soil, I remain, sir, your obedient servant, To Mr James English. JOHN MANNERS."

THE FARMERS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

A numerous meeting of Hertfordshire tenant-farmers was held at St Albans, on Wednesday, "for the purpose of entertaining Mr John Horncastle, of Gammon's farm, at a public dinner, and presenting him with a testimonial of the admiration with which they regard the independent and truly English spirit in which he expressed his opposition to the very stringent preservation of game within the last few years adopted by his landlord, the Earl of Essex." A hundred and twenty gentlemen sat down to dinner; Mr C. H. Latimore took the head of the table; and Mr Bright, M.P., was present by special invitation. Mr Latimore declared that the tenant-farmers did not at all wish to put an end to field-sports; and that they would themselves be willing, without spies or gamekeepers, to maintain a sufficient supply of game for their landlords, including the now expiring race of foxes. Having mentioned some other instances of mischief done by excessively-preserved game, he concluded his speech by presenting a testimonial to Mr Horncastle, handsomely framed, and expressing approbation of his conduct: it was signed by 316 persons, of whom 241 were tenant-farmers occupying 65,000 acres of land. The testimonial was accompanied by a purse of sixty guineas, as a present for Mr Horncastle's youngest son, and by the toast of "Mr John Horncastle." Mr Horncastle returned thanks, in a brief speech, distinguished by forbearance towards his antagonist in the controversy. Among the subsequent toasts were given the names of Mr Bright and Mr Cobden; and Mr Bright made a speech.

The *Gloucester Journal* announces that the late high sheriff of the county, Mr Joseph Yorke, of Forthampton court, near Tewkesbury, has abandoned game-preserving and broken up his staff of keepers.

THE FARMERS.—At a late market dinner at Wickham, Mr Godrich, of Wickham-mill (in the chair), and forty-two farmers, and others interested in the land, being present, after the usual loyal toasts, one of the party proposed the health of Sir Robert Peel, when all the company, excepting the chairman and the proposer, turned down their glasses and refused to drink it! The chairman remonstrated in vain; he said he himself had intended to give the toast, knowing that four-fifths of the company voted to place Sir Robert where he is; still, however, the agriculturists were inexorable; they would recognise their idol no longer.—*Hants Telegraph*.

As an evidence of the estimation in which the present ministry is held by the agriculturists, we may mention that, at the usual Easter Monday "feast," in a village not six miles from Ipswich, presided over by the Rector of the parish, after the customary toasts had been given, the tory ministry, of course, could not go entirely neglected by his Reverence, and therefore the healths of "Sir Robert Peel and the rest of her Majesty's ministers," were duly proposed; and, will it be believed, that in this "blue" county it met with a direct negative, and that from the curate of the parish, who on the

occasion was the mouthpiece of the farmers. The reverend chairman submitted to the will of his parishioners, and the toast of the "Farmer's Friend," at a meeting purely agricultural, met not with a response.—*Suffolk Chronicle*.

On Friday there was a meeting of landlords and tenants at Battle, Sussex; Sir C. Lamb in the chair; at which loud disapprobation was testified that the members for the county were not present to listen to the complaints of the aggrieved farmers. Resolutions were unanimously agreed to, stating the continuance of the present depression must ruin the agriculturists, and that the malt duty is extremely injurious. It was also resolved to petition parliament on these points. At the meeting, Mr Tehner, described as an extensive tenant farmer, said it was no use grumbling, nothing could be done unless the landlords and clergy came forward and reduced their rent. The farmers had been grossly deceived, Sir Robert Peel had told them wheat would be at 56s. per quarter last week. Rye market at was 44s. The meeting were quite unanimous in complaining of deep distress and equal deceit, and full of anger at their friends who represent them in parliament. On Thursday there was a meeting of landowners and tenant-farmers at Chelmsford, called by the Essex Agricultural Protection Society, at which Mr Baker, of Writtle, presided. A long discussion took place about the Canada Corn bill, &c., but no substantive resolutions were adopted. Invitations had been sent to all the county and borough members for Essex to attend, but only three, Sir J. Tyrrell, Mr C. J. Round, and Mr T. W. Bramston were present. Similar complaints to those made at Battle were made of distress and deceit, and a similar allusion was made to the necessary reduction of rent. The three members present each made a speech, but have we not enough of their speeches in parliament? Whether members be present or abroad, neither dignity nor interest can now be imparted to meetings of farmers and farmers' friends at which they "whine" about the distress they have brought on themselves, and about the deceit they have given their friends power to practise. Scarcely a soul in the empire, we believe, besides the agriculturists themselves, either in parliament or out of parliament, pities the agriculturists for the distress which their own obstinacy has brought on them, or regards the deceit of which they complain as anything but the natural and inevitable consequence of their own greediness and folly. They have deceived themselves.—*Chronicle*.

WEEKLY CONCERTS FOR THE PEOPLE.—We are glad to learn that the committee of the Lancashire and Cheshire Philharmonic institution have made arrangements for a series of weekly concerts, on a scale of magnitude never before attempted in Manchester. Their object is to give to the working classes especially an opportunity of enjoying the best music of the greatest masters, given by the *élite* of our resident professional vocalists and instrumentalists (and even occasionally with the aid of eminent *artistes* from a distance), free from the seductive and dangerous accompaniments with which the nascent and growing love of music in these classes must necessarily be attended in the music saloon of the public house or the gin shop. To this end, the committee have engaged the Free trade hall, and propose to give in that room a series of Saturday evening concerts. We understand that the mayor of Manchester has consented to preside, and thus to give to the innocent amusements and enjoyments of the humblest classes of the community over which he presides as chief magistrate, the high sanction and approval of his presence.—*Manchester Guardian*.

PUBLIC PARKS.—The committee have purchased Lark hall, Pendleton, with seven acres of land, for £4,500. The house itself was erected at the cost of £10,000.—*Manchester Times*.

REDUCTION OF THE HOURS OF FACTORY LABOUR.—The proceedings at the meeting of Mr Gardner's factory hands have created, as we expected, a lively interest not only throughout the whole of the manufacturing community, but among the members of the legislature. We also hear that Mr Horner, the inspector of factories for this district, is about to visit Preston, to inquire into the circumstances, so that it is probable an official statement of the results of this important experiment will be laid before government. We understand that Messrs Horrocks, Jackson, and Co., of this town, are about to reduce the hours of labour in their mill to eleven daily, as Mr Gardner has done; and we believe some others of our influential manufacturers will speedily follow in this march of improvement. Messrs Ainscow and Tomlinson, machine makers, of Preston, have, in compliance with the request of their workmen, granted them half-an-hour in each day as tea-time, for five days in the week; a privilege of which they were deprived during the late depression.—*Preston Guardian*.

THE WONDER CAVERN.—The capacious cavern in Stoney Middleton Dale, known as the Wonder, is now closed up, from visitors, probably for ever. Above the subterranean passage which leads to the magnificent cavern, many tons of broken or blasted limestone were piled up with wood supporters at the time of the discovery of the cavern, more than a century ago. The wood has fallen into the passage, from which it can, without herculean labour, be scarcely removed. Had a party been in the cavern at the time of the falling of the stone, they must inevitably have been entombed alive. Considering the numbers that explore the Wonder, it is fortunate indeed that such has not been the melancholy case.—*Derby Reporter*.

WEEKLY HALF-HOLIDAY IN A MILL.—Messrs G. and J. Smith, silk manufacturers, Lower Mosley

street, Manchester, have commenced giving their workpeople a holiday on Saturday afternoon. We are informed that the greater part of the hands, 900 in number, are paid weekly wages.

GAME PRESERVING ABANDONED.—We are informed that our late High Sheriff, Joseph Yorke, Esq., of Forthampton court, near Tewkesbury, has abandoned game preserving and broken up his staff of keepers. This is a tribute to the "spirit of the age," which we are happy to have an opportunity of recording. The horrible conflicts which the preserving system has lately given rise to make one shudder; while there can be no doubt that the land can be made incalculably more valuable in a cultivated state, which, both to the owner and the public, is worthy consideration.—*Gloucester Journal*.

ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY AS A PROMOTER OF VEGETATION.—It will be in the recollection of some of our readers, that in October last, Mr Gorton, of Nash house, announced to the Tring Agricultural Association, the then immature results, or rather prospects, of some experiments which had been instituted by Mr Forster, of Findrassie, near Elgin, on the application of atmospheric electricity to the promotion of the growth of plants; those projects (promising as they then were) have since more than realised the expectations then formed, inasmuch as Mr Forster has thrashed, weighed, and measured, fifteen bushels of Chevalier barley, fifty-four pounds and a quarter to the bushel, from an electric area of twenty-three perches of land only, being at the rate of upwards of one hundred and four bushels to the acre, with more than three times the weight of the ordinary quantity of straw. The barley outside the insulated area, and therefore not within the influence of the artificially excited electricity, did not exceed a good average crop in either grain or straw.—*Bristol Mirror*.

THE SPRING ASSIZES.—Three men have been found guilty of arson, at the Cambridge assizes; and a boy fourteen years old only escaped by a flaw in the indictment. In both cases agricultural produce was fired.—At Leicester, on Tuesday, a number of persons were tried for a riot in forcibly entering Lord Harborough's park, and fighting his people, in an attempt to make a survey for the proposed Syston and Peterborough railway. They were found guilty of an assault, fined a shilling each, and ordered to be imprisoned for one month.—At the York assizes nearly twenty persons, convicted of various street or highway robberies attended with violence, were sentenced to fifteen years' transportation, and one to twenty years.—Thomas Marples, twenty-five, who killed his own father by thrusting a red-hot nail-rod into his body, when in a fit of uncontrolled passion, was convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to seven days' solitary imprisonment.—In the possession of a man named Harrison, convicted at York, on Wednesday week, of a highway robbery near Leeds, and sentenced to transportation, a diary has been found, consisting of a record of all his robberies! The book is small and neat—is gilt-edged—and forms, in fact, a sort of robber's album! It would appear, from one of the entries, that a man named White, convicted of highway robbery at the same assizes, was in reality (as he himself solemnly protested) innocent of the crime, and that Harrison was the robber.—At Derby, an astrologer, named Coulson, brought an action against two magistrates, for having sent him to prison for two months as a rogue and a vagabond. The action was brought by a society calling itself the Astrological Cerebral Mesmeric Society of London. The plaintiff was nonsuited.—At Salisbury, a female pauper named Praxall Alford Hinwood, was convicted of sending a letter to a poor-law guardian, threatening to burn down his farm buildings, for not allowing her more than sixpence a week, and sentenced to ten years' transportation. On leaving the bar she shook her fist at the judge, and said, "I hope, my lord, you will sit there till I come back again."—Christopher Nichols, 18, and Mark Compton, 18, convicted of arson at Worton, were sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

ACTION FOR LIBEL.—At Kingston Assizes, on Thursday, the *Times* appeared, by its publisher, Mr Lawson, as defendant in an action for libel, brought by Mr Solomon, a merchant, of St Helena. Mr Solomon is the owner of a sloop which is fitted up as a tank, and used to convey water on board vessels that stop at the island; an employment in which it has returned some £16,000 a year to its owner. In August, 1844, the Moffatt East Indiaman called at St Helena, on her homeward voyage, and took in water. Captain Gilbert, the commander, and some other persons belonging to the ship, were subsequently indisposed, but not seriously; great sickness, however, appeared among the passengers, officers from Scinde, whose symptoms were pronounced by Mr Green, the acting surgeon, to be those of persons who had taken some metallic poison. A letter imputing the malady to poisoned water appeared in the *Times*; that journal refused to disclose the author of the letter to Mr Solomon's commercial friends; and the charges were even repeated. It now appeared, that the first letter was written by a Mr Howell, two of whose friends had suffered from illness on board. Mr Howell had been a bankrupt, and could not stand the expense of an action. Counsel for the plaintiff elicited ample evidence, that the sloop was fitted with wooden tanks, destitute of any copper or other poisonous metal; that the officers had suffered from fever in Scinde; that one of them had been on board a vessel containing negro apprentices, passed by the Moffatt on the voyage after leaving St Helena (which might have been the means of imparting some infection); that calomel had been freely administered to the patients; and Mr Green himself admitted that the symptoms resembled such as might be produced

by over-doses of that drug. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages £500.

EARTHQUAKE AT HUNTINGDON.—Shortly after nine o'clock on Wednesday evening, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in Huntingdon, occasioning much alarm to many of the inhabitants. In some of the houses the vibration was very perceptible, whilst various articles were moved on the shelves, and others thrown down. It was accompanied by a low rumbling underground noise, and every one supposed that something was amiss in the lower parts of their own houses, and hastened to ascertain the cause of the alarm. It lasted for about half a minute, and we learn that the same sensation was experienced through the county about the same time. The following particulars have been kindly forwarded to us by the governor of the county gaol.—"Every part of the prison was affected by it; the floor and table of my office on which I was then writing suddenly shook, and at the same time a great noise resembling an explosion was distinctly heard. I instantly proceeded with my officers to examine every cell and prisoner, expecting to discover some effects, but found none. Several prisoners said their iron bedsteads shook very much; my first impression was that the large iron boiler of our warming apparatus had burst, although it seemed impossible, as I had lately seen it filled with water; I was therefore left to infer it must be the effects of earthquake." At Hinchbrook and other places standing away from the town, the shock and noise was more perceptible, and created a proportionately greater degree of alarm. The keeper of the gas works supposed that one of his large retorts had burst, and was glad to find on examination that it was not so. We believe this is the first occurrence of the kind that has been known here within the memory of man.—*Cambridge Chronicle*.

LAND SLIP.—On Thursday morning, a tremendous land-slip took place from the top of Hillsborough, opposite the entrance of the harbour, from a height of more than 400 feet, down to a spacious beach at the foot of the cliff, filling the broad beach completely, and estimated at more than 1,000 tons. Just as this slip took place a sloop was entering the harbour. The men on board, not expecting such a fall from the cliff, were not a little astonished. The crash was awfully grand. Portions of the cliff have continued to fall during the day, and the crown of that majestic hill is materially altered in appearance.—*North Devon Advertiser*.

On Wednesday, John Hawksley, farmer, who had been committed to Derby gaol on a charge of murdering his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Green, of Whittington, near Chesterfield, an elderly widow, destroyed himself in his cell.

Thomas Evans has been elected governor of Carmarthen workhouse. Evans was last year taken prisoner among a party of other Rebeccaites for an attack on this very workhouse; and, strange to say, he is now duly installed master of it. It is expected the poor-law commissioners will interfere.—*Bristol Times*.

EXECUTION OF JOHN TAWELL.—On Friday morning this wretched man was executed at Aylesbury. The particulars of his life have been detailed in the public prints with a minuteness so nauseous that they have now no need of repetition. A record of his death must suffice here, according to the sentence passed upon him. The preparations for the execution were completed at five o'clock in the morning, and at seven nearly three thousand persons had assembled in the large area in front of the county hall. The sad ceremonial was appointed to take place at eight o'clock, but at a quarter before that hour the unhappy criminal was led to the scaffold. He knelt to pray for about a minute; the rope was then put round his neck, the bolt was drawn, and after a few convulsive struggles, he died. The following statement of the prisoner's behaviour has been given to the reporters by Mr Sherriif, the governor of the gaol, who afforded to the members of the press every information in his power:—

John Tawell passed the whole night with almost unabated firmness, only giving way to a few tears and emotion occasionally. He listened with becoming attention to many portions of scripture, and read many himself, joining with propriety in observations arising from them; and not only did he listen and unite in the prayers that were offered for him, but he several times retired into his sleeping cell, and, falling upon his knees, prayed aloud, and most fervently and penitently. His firmness never forsook him to the last. Mr Sherriif also stated that Tawell remained up till after three o'clock on Friday morning, when, addressing the under-sheriff, he said, "I wish to retire for a few minutes; if I go to bed, will you be so good as to call me at five o'clock?" He then lay down, but did not sleep more than a quarter of an hour. When he awoke he ate a hearty breakfast; and at half-past seven o'clock expressed a wish that all should be over as soon as was then possible. After hanging the usual time the body was cut down, and immediately buried within the precincts of the gaol. Previous to his execution Tawell made a confession of his guilt, and also that he attempted to poison the unfortunate woman Hart in September last. The confession was written by him some days ago, and he gave it to the ordinary. Mr Cox, at five o'clock on Friday morning, he at the same making a request that it should not be copied, but that the purport of it might be made known to the public. He said that he did not commit the murder from any pecuniary motives, but from a fear that the relation in which he stood towards Sarah Hart should become known to his wife. The under-sheriff made an application to Mr Cox for a copy of Tawell's confession, but it was refused.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

There are about forty new cemeteries projected at present in Scotland.

In a London china shop, a piece of crockery is exhibited with the following attractive label:—"Fac simile of the late lamented PORTLAND VASE."

To support the authority of the revolutionary government at Lausanne, a corps of 500 men has been formed, with an allowance of 10 batz and four bottles of wine apiece per diem.

THE LATEST SPRING FOR FIFTY YEARS.—This year, for the first time these fifty years, says the *Presse*, the well-known chesnut tree of the Tuileries was not seen green with leaves on March 20; the branches were as bare as in the middle of winter.

A TRADING BRIDEGROOM.—After a marriage in Connecticut, the bridegroom took the parson aside most mysteriously, and whispered to him, "Can't you take the pay out in tatooes?"

A little child, who was taken to church a few Sabbaths ago, was asked what he saw at church; to which he replied, "I saw a man dancing in a tub."

THE END OF ICHABOE.—The "deposits" are exhausted—the "bank" is broken—and "no effects" is the answer returned to every ship which now visits the island. We saw a letter, yesterday, written from Ichaboe, on the 1st ult., by a ship captain. He had not been able, he said, to raise a single ounce of guano.—*Gateshead Observer*.

According to the statistics of the London *Record*, the organ of the church, there are now fourteen millions of dissenters in Great Britain and Ireland, and but ten millions of people in connexion with the established church.

John Jonathan, a wireworker, died at Bath on the 14th inst., after traveling to that city from Bristol on the Great Western railway, in a third class carriage. An inquest was held, and a verdict returned attributing his death partly to "exposure to the inclemency of the weather." All railway companies ought to be compelled to protect their passengers from the weather.

The tide of emigration never flowed with greater vigour to the United States than at present. The Governor Davies, which sailed on the 13th, took out 300; the Cambridge, on the 10th, 318; and the Yorkshire, on the 18th, 400.

A short time ago, a part of a very perfect fossilised sugar-cane was found in a large block of sandstone in the vicinity of Eyam, which has all the corresponding characteristics of the sugar-cane of the tropical regions.—*Macclesfield Courier*.

One George Downhand, being minus a hand and part of his arm, wears an artificial substitute, invented by Sir George Caley, Bart., by means of which he can write, help himself to a glass of wine, tie and untie his shoes, &c. "He has been honoured," says the *Sun*, "by Prince Albert shaking him by his artificial hand!"

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Our fathers fought to publish the debates,
And thought in that to gain a bit of freedom;
But now their sons have lost it to the states,
By making them a deal too long to read 'em!
—*Punch*.

A SINGING MOUSE.—One of these curious creatures has been found and secured by a gentleman of this town, who has allowed us to see and hear it. The animal is very small, and seems to delight in a continued low, chirping, whistling sound, not so full of tone as a cricket's song, but including three or four notes rapidly repeated and varied. It has been observed that its vocal ability declines in its captivity. To be at comparative liberty, in a good-sized room, with suitable food, would probably increase its curious powers.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

RAILWAY RESTAURANT.—A plan has been promulgated, which promises to administer largely to the luxury and comfort of those who are compelled to undertake frequent league-long journeys between Liverpool and London, or other distant places. The invention consists in the construction of some newly-formed carriages, so as to constitute a sort of travelling cafe, or railway-restaurant, to be placed in the rear of the carriages, which are to be so constructed as to open into one another to any extent, enabling waiters to travel along the train *ad libitum*, and relieve the ennui so inseparable from railway traveling, by supplies from a locomotive larder at the other end. A bill of fare, showing what the refectory contains, is to be posted in each carriage; so that passengers, first, second, and third, may at any time stay the sacred rage of hunger. Bells are to be at the command of the passengers to announce their wants to the waiter, who will travel to them along a narrow passage alongside the interior of the carriages constructed for the purpose. Should the proposed plan, which has its origin at Hull, be adopted, railway traveling may be ranked amongst the beatitudes.

TRAVELS IN SEARCH OF JOHN SMITH.—Some twelve months since, Mr Turner of Maitland posted a letter for Mr John Smith, solicitor, O'Connell street, Sydney, but which he accidentally directed "London." Now, John Smiths are exceedingly plentiful in London; O'Connell streets, however, are not very common, but it appears there are some; and there are three John Smiths residing in O'Connell streets, each of whom opened—and returned it. In Dublin there are several O'Connell streets and lots of John Smiths, and to Dublin it was sent; but after all the Smiths had been "tried" in vain, it was determined to send the letter back to the writer, endorsed with the certificates of seventeen different postmen. In November last it arrived in Maitland, when the mistake was discovered, and Mr John Smith, O'Connell street, received his letter, together with four one-pound notes enclosed in it.

SIR GEORGE STEPHEN.—We understand that Sir George Stephen, whose name is as honourably connected with the abolition of West India slavery as that of his father with the abolition of the slave trade, has received and accepted the appointment of agent to the Bahamas by the colonial legislature.—*Patriot*.

THE WILL OF SIR THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, BART.—Probate of the will of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, late of Northrepps, in the county of Norfolk, Bart., and of the firm of Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, and Co., brewers, Brick-lane, Spitalfields, in the county of Middlesex, was granted on the 25th instant to Sir Edward North Buxton, Bart., and Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq., the sons, two of the executors; a power being reserved to Dame Hannah Buxton, widow, the relict, and Andrew Johnston, Esq., the son-in-law, the other executor, to prove hereafter. The personal estate sworn under £250,000. The will is of great length, and dated October 17, 1844; witnessed by John Gurney Hoare, of Lombard street, and Esther Neave Lincoln, of Northrepps Hall. Sir Thomas died on the 19th of February last. He leaves his manuscripts and papers to his son Edward and daughter Priscilla, either to publish or destroy, or to be kept by the survivor, in compliance with the wishes of his deceased sister, Sarah Buxton, from whom he has recently derived an addition to his property. Leaves to his son Edward his guns and sporting implements, and the selection of two horses. Bequeaths to his wife the carriages, horses, and the whole of the furniture, and directs £1,000 to be paid to her within one month, and £3,000 at the end of twelve months. The establishments to be kept up for six months after his decease. Bequeaths to his daughter, Priscilla Johnston, a legacy of £2,000, and a further sum of £5,000 from his share in the brewery; and to his daughter Richenda Buxton, the sum of £9,000; leaves one-third of his share in the brewery to his wife for her life; appoints his son Charles to succeed to one-third of his share in the brewery, and leaves certain other portions to his family; the remainder of his share and interest in the brewery he leaves to his son and partner, Edward; leaves the whole of his plate to his wife for her life, and at her decease to be distributed as follows:—the plate presented to him by his late constituents at Weymouth, and by his brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, and all other relations, he gives to his son Edward; the plate presented to him by the young people at Weymouth, he gives to his son-in-law, Andrew Johnston; the plate presented to him from the directors and members of the Alliance Assurance Company, he gives to his sons, Thomas Fowell, and Charles. Other specific articles of plate he leaves to his daughters. He gives his college prize-books to his son Edward and his children. Devises his freehold and leasehold estates at Runtun and Fellbrigg, in the county of Norfolk, to his son, Edward North Buxton. Devises his freehold, copyhold, and leasehold estates in Trimington, Sidestrond, Southrepps, Girningham, and in all other towns, parishes, or places, in or near the county of Norfolk, to his sons, Thomas Fowell Buxton, and Charles Buxton. Directs the Bellfield estate to be sold, and, with the share in the partnership of the brewery, and the residue of his personal estate, to be held in trust to pay thereout £3,000 a-year to his wife for her life. Appoints his son, now Sir Edward North Buxton, his residuary legatee.

FATHER MATHEW.—We have great pleasure in announcing that the sums already contributed for the purpose of relieving this distinguished reformer from his pecuniary embarrassments, amount to nearly £7,000. It is gratifying to know that Father Mathew is no longer oppressed by actual debt. But it must never be forgotten that he has sacrificed everything for the cause which he has espoused—that a great work still lies before him, and that means will be required to enable him to pursue his invaluable labours with vigour and constancy. We call upon all, to sustain the author of this great reformation in his efforts to extend and perpetuate its blessings.—*Inquirer*.

PROJECTED NEW RAILWAYS.—The subjoined announcement appears in Friday's Gazette—"Notice is hereby given, that the Board constituted by the minute of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, for the transaction of railway business, having had under consideration the undermentioned railway schemes, have determined on reporting to parliament in favour of the Birkenhead, Manchester, and Cheshire Junction, Chester and Birkenhead Extension, Blackburn and Preston (Alterations, Extensions, and Branch), Coventry, Bedworth, and Nuneaton, Eastern Counties (Finsbury Extension), Huddersfield and Sheffield Junction, Lancaster and Carlisle (Deviation in parish of Kendal), Lancaster and Carlisle (Branch to Newcastle and Carlisle Railway), Lancaster and Carlisle (Scotforth to Slyme), Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Shields (Tynemouth Extension and New Quay Branch), North Union Extension to the river Ribble, Sheffield and Rotherham (Branch to the Sheffield and Manchester Railway), Norwich and Brandon (Extension into Norwich), York and North Midland (Bridlington Branch); and against the Liverpool and Manchester (Rainforth and Liverpool Branch), Chester and Preston Brook, Eastern Counties (Thames Junction and North Woolwich), Great North of England (Clarence and Hartlepool Junction, Extension and Branches), Grand Junction (Friar's Park to Dudley Branch), London and Gravesend, via North Woolwich; and recommending the postponement until a future period of the Liverpool, Ormskirk, and Preston, Southport and Euxton, Preston Brook and Runcorn Junction, Epping, Grand Junction (Potteries Branch)."

PRINCE ALBERT AND THE DUKE OF ROTHESAY.—It may not be generally known that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is Duke of Rothsay, as well as Duke of Cornwall, and which, it would appear from the following incident, which has recently occurred, was either unknown to or forgotten by his royal father. One morning a card was presented at Buckingham palace to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, upon which was engraved "The Duke of Rothsay," and an audience solicited. His Royal Highness seemed puzzled, and repeated the name several times, saying he did not recollect having heard of such a nobleman, but he consented to give the required audience, and ordered the Duke of Rothsay to be shown in, when he was agreeably surprised by the entrance of the heir apparent, attired in full Highland costume, attended by her Majesty's piper. The above amusing incident was productive of considerable entertainment to the royal circle.—*Morning Post*.

We are informed that the King of Hanover has very recently sent autograph letters to their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke of Cambridge, as well as to several intimate personal friends of his Majesty in this country, communicating the gratifying fact of the interesting condition of her Royal Highness the Crown Princess, which at no distant period promises an heir in direct succession to the throne of Hanover.—*Times*.

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY.—This company—determined not to be outdone in affording accommodation to the public—have decided upon accelerating the mail trains, which at present make the journey in four hours and a half, and are shortly to make it in three hours and a half. It is also under consideration to start a despatch train each way, which will run the whole distance, 112½ miles, in three hours.—*Ten Towns' Messenger*.

A CHEAP TRAIN TO LONDON IN MAY.—On Whit-Monday, the 11th of May, cheap trains to the metropolis are to be started from all the principal towns of the midland and manufacturing districts. Measures are already taken for securing cheap trains from Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham, Nottingham. This great movement is set on foot by the Anti-corn-law League, in order to increase the number of spectators and customers at their bazaar, for the exhibition of national manufactures, to be held in Covent Garden theatre, in May.

RAILWAY SPECULATION.—All sorts of people are plunging into the frightful whirlpool of railway speculation. Bankers and merchants, barristers and haberdashers, bankers' clerks and doctors of divinity, members of parliament and keepers of gambling houses, old men and young lads, married women who desire to have a good speculation on their own account, and spinsters who think that an addition to their fortune might give them an opportunity of sharing it with another—all, all are rushing on in the same course—flying after the wheel of fortune, which for the present is laden at every spoke with the shares of some railway company.—*Morning Post*.

Religious Intelligence.

TAVISTOCK.—On Monday, March 3rd, a meeting was held in Brook street chapel, Tavistock, for the purpose of electing Mr T. Lockwood co-pastor with Mr Rooker, who is now in the 73rd year of his age, he having been the beloved and esteemed pastor of the church from its commencement, a period of more than 47 years. The title "Reverend" inserted in the "call" prepared for signature being objected to, a conversation on that subject ensued, after which it was resolved by a majority then present, that that title should be erased; the said call was then unanimously signed.

HOCKLIFFE, BEDS.—On Easter Monday, March 25th, the teachers of the independent Sabbath schools connected with the Hockliffe and Eggington chapels, and a large number of the friends and members of the church, met in the chapel at Hockliffe; and, after having partaken of tea, Mr G. Philpots, of Toddington, having made a few observations suitable to the occasion, called upon Mr Sell, of Leighton Buzzard, to present to Mr Lewis, their esteemed pastor, the volumes before them. Mr Sell then, in the name of the church and congregation, presented to Mr Lewis Matthew Henry's "Commentary," in three volumes, splendidly bound, as a token of their esteem for his character and conduct, during his residence among them for nearly six years—years of untiring zeal and indefatigable industry, to promote the moral and spiritual improvement of the population at Hockliffe and Eggington, and other villages in the neighbourhood. Mr Sell, after referring to his minister's successful instrumentality in the conversion of many souls, concluded a telling speech by expressing, on his own behalf, and in the name of the contributors, their affectionate wishes, good will, and earnest prayers for Mr Lewis's future welfare and ministerial prosperity. Mr Lewis then rose under strong emotions, returned his sincere and heartfelt thanks to Mr Sell, as the originator of the valuable gift presented to him, and to all those who had so promptly contributed towards it. Mr Lewis, in the course of an excellent and affectionate speech, said, the church meeting within these walls never had more communicants than at the present time. He likewise referred to the period when he settled among them; there was then a debt upon Hockliffe chapel, which had long since been wiped away. He alluded, also, to the building of Eggington chapel, which was opened in November, 1840, and is now free from all debt (and principally through Mr Lewis's own exertions). His warm-

hearted speech was responded to by many tears, and it was with difficulty Mr Lewis restrained himself from weeping. He concluded his speech by praying that his people might be the recipients of the blessing of the God of all grace, and, holding up the volumes to view, he quoted the following lines:—

"Holy bible, book divine;
Precious treasure, thou art mine!"

The friends then retired, and returned to the chapel at seven o'clock to a public Sunday school teachers' meeting. After prayer was offered up and a hymn sung, some excellent addresses were delivered on the nature and beneficial results of Sabbath school tuition, by Mr G. Philpot, C. Welch, F. Read, T. Southam, and W. Welch. In the course of the evening, Mr Lewis addressed the teachers on the importance of not being weary in well doing, at considerable length, and with great animation.—*From a Correspondent*.

BRIGHTON.—On Easter Monday, at the Town hall, Brighton, a tea meeting was held in connexion with Mr F. Allin's congregation, to advocate the cause of Sabbath schools. The report stated, that their school consisted of 204 children and 42 teachers, though the school had been existence only a few months. The meeting was addressed by several ministers, including Messrs Allin, of Brighton; Rees, of Worthing; Malden, of Chichester; Bean, of London; and Brewer, of Dover.

WORTHING.—On Easter Tuesday was held the quarterly meeting of the West Sussex Association of Congregational ministers, when Mr Malden, of Chichester, read an essay on "The duties of Christian magistrates and peace officers in cases of tumults, insurrections, and invasions," which was followed by an interesting discussion on the lawfulness of repelling force by force. In the evening a delightful sermon was preached by Mr Brewer, of Dover.

TRIUMPHS OF VOLUNTARYISM IN LEICESTER.—As advocates and admirers of the voluntary support of the great interests of religion, we feel a flush of honest pride in directing our readers to the local incidents of the past week. It will be seen, from our pages, that a social meeting was convened in the Gallowtree Gate chapel, on Friday evening, the 21st inst, when it was announced that the debt caused by the erection of a new gallery and organ was completely paid off, upwards of six hundred pounds having been raised, during the year, for these purposes, in addition to providing for the ordinary expenditure of that place of worship. That, on the same evening, about three hundred persons from the town and county took tea in the school room connected with the Harvey lane place of worship, when one hundred and twenty pounds was collected for the liquidation of a debt to that amount, which had been incurred in home missionary exertions in the county. That, on Monday night, a highly-interesting meeting took place in the Dover Street chapel, when upwards of eighty pounds was raised towards lessening the obligations still resting on it.—*Leicester Mercury*.

THE MISSIONARY SHIP "JOHN WILLIAMS."—This fine vessel, the property of the London Missionary Society, left our harbour for the principal scene of her destined operations, the South Sea Islands, on the morning of Thursday last, having on board the Rev. Messrs Heath, Sunderland, Powell, and Gill, with their ladies, proceeding to their several stations in that interesting scene of missionary enterprise. She was towed outside the Heads by the Cornubia steamer, accompanied by two hundred ladies and gentlemen, the friends of the missionaries. Just before the ship was cast off, a hymn, appropriate to the occasion, was given out by the Rev. Dr Ross, standing on the quarter-deck of the John Williams, and was sung with deep earnestness by both the ships' companies; and at its close, the Rev. Mr Draper, Wesleyan minister, offered up a prayer, commending the missionaries and their fellow-voyagers to the Divine protection. The Rev. Dr Ross then pronounced the benediction; and then came the parting scene, which was one of much emotion, many persons being affected to tears. When the vessels had separated, several rounds of cheers were exchanged between them; and the John Williams sped her way across the waters of the mighty Pacific.—*Sydney Morning Herald*, November 9, 1844.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The large room in the Town hall, Salford, was opened last Sabbath as a temporary place of worship in connexion with the presbytery of Lancashire. Two eloquent and impressive sermons were delivered by the Rev. John Macnaughten, of the Free church of Scotland, Paisley, and there was a good attendance at both morning and evening services.—*Manchester Times*.

CHESTERFIELD INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.—On Easter Monday a social tea meeting took place in Soresby street chapel, for the purpose of receiving the money obtained by the collectors towards liquidating, in three years, the debt remaining on the building. Mr W. Blandy, the minister, presided, and the company was highly gratified by the success which had attended the effort. Besides £120 acknowledged since Christmas last, £70 were then paid in to the treasurer.

One of the Secession congregations of Paisley has just cleared off a debt of £1300. One benevolent gentleman belonging to the church made an offer to his brethren, that if jointly amongst the whole of them they would raise £1000 during the bypast year, he would add £300 as an individual to that sum, for the purpose of clearing off the burdens they lay under. That such an offer might not be lost, another gentleman, with a spirit equally praiseworthy, came forward with £200 of the thousand for his own share. Such excellent examples had the desired effect; every member down to the poorest exerted themselves to

perform their share of the task, and the consequence has been, that within the prescribed time, the whole sum has been raised.—*Glasgow Post.*

ABINGDON, BERKS.—Mr W. Wilkins having, in consequence of increasing years, resigned his office as pastor of the independent church, Abingdon, after an honourable and useful connexion with the same for nearly thirty-eight years, Mr S. L'Epine, of Basingstoke, has responded to a cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate, and will enter on his labours the second Sabbath in April.

ANOTHER CHAPEL DEBT CLEARED OFF.—On Sunday last, two sermons were preached by Mr John Ely, independent minister, Leeds, at James Street chapel, Blackburn, when collections were made amounting to £607 6s. 6d., clearing that place of worship of the remainder of the debt.

HATHERLOW.—The foundation stone of a new independent chapel at Hatherlow, near Stockport, was laid on Good Friday, by Ormerod Heyworth, Esq., of Liverpool.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Mr George Sample, senior pastor of New Court chapel, has accepted the unanimous call of the Tuthill Stairs baptist church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to become their minister, vacant by the retirement of Mr R. Pengilly, who, after labouring thirty-eight years at Tuthill stairs, is about to reside at Eglescliffe, near Yarm.

BIRTHS.

March 23, at Wisbech, the wife of Mr J. C. Pike, minister, of a son.

March 25, at Beaconsfield, Mrs CHARLES STONEMAN, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 17th, at Orange street chapel, Leicester square, by Mr J. P. Dobson, minister, Mr HENRY BRADFORD, of London, to Miss MARGARET KEITH, of Luton, Bedfordshire, being the first couple united in this place.

Feb. 17, at the independent chapel, Chesterfield, Mr JOHN PURSLOVE, of Renishaw, to Miss MARIA BRADLEY, of Conisborough.

Feb. 24, at the baptist chapel, St Alban's, by Mr W. Upton, Mr GEORGE DOUDLE, to Miss HANNAH WARRELL, all of St Alban's.

March 6, at the baptist chapel, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire, Mr SAMUEL COCKIN, of Biggleswade, to Miss SARAH WOODHAM, of Gamlingay.

March 24, at the baptist chapel, St Alban's, by Mr W. Upton, Mr WILLIAM WHITEHOUSE, to Miss ANN SEARS, all of St Alban's.

March 24, at the independent chapel, Ware, by Mr G. Pearce, Mr DANIEL FIELD to Mrs HANNAH GUTTERIDGE.

March 25, by Mr G. N. Watson, pastor of the baptist church, Cork, Mr CHARLES SHARMAN, baptist minister, Clonmel, to SUSAN, relict of the late Mr OSBORNE, of Clonmel.

March 25, at the baptist chapel, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire, Mr JAMES TOPHAM to Miss ELIZABETH WOODHAM, both of Gamlingay.

March 26, at Harvey lane chapel, Leicester, by the pastor, Mr J. P. Murrell, Mr EDWARD SANDYS, to ANNE, eldest daughter of Mr SANDYS, Asylum street, both of this town.

March 27, at Hale Leys chapel, Aylesbury, by Mr W. J. Gates, Mr THOMAS WAITE, of the above town, to Miss ZILPAH BIGGS, of Cablington.

March 27, at the independent church, Foleshill, by Dr Styles, Mr JOHN WEST to Miss ELIZA BETTS, both of the above parish, in the county of Warwick.

DEATHS.

Feb. 13, at George town, Demerara, EDWIN ANGEL, eldest child of Mr E. A. WALLBRIDGE, missionary, in the eighth year of his age.

March 3, at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, Mr W. SKEVINGTON, aged 70 years.

March 10, at Aberdeen, Mr JOHN MITCHELL, late editor of the *Aberdeen Review* of that town, a warm advocate of sound political and ecclesiastical questions. Mr Mitchell took an active part in the chartist, and subsequently in the complete suffrage, movements; and, to his active exertions and literary labours, the cause of liberty is largely indebted.

March 16, of consumption, at Grafenberg, Austrian Silesia, in his 29th year, BENJAMIN BRIGHT, Esq., of Rochdale, brother of John Bright, Esq., M.P.

March 20, suddenly, at Hales Owen, deeply regretted, Mr BRETTELL, in the 68th year of his age. He was for many years deacon of the independent church, and survived his brother deacon with whom he was chosen but three months.

March 20, at her residence, Nottingham park, aged 65 years, ELIZABETH, wife of John HEARD, Esq., alderman for the borough of Nottingham.

March 21, at Swansea, Glamorgan, after a short illness, Mr THOMAS FRY, papermaker, late of Romsey, Hants.

March 22, at Dunstable, sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends, SUSANNA, widow of the late W. BATCHELOR, Esq., surgeon, and fourth daughter of R. Gutteridge, Esq., of Dunstable.

March 24, Mr WILLIAM RANVARD, of Kingston-on-Thames, in his 75th year.

March 28, at Croydon, ANN, the beloved wife of Mr W. CAMPBELL, minister, deeply regretted by her family and friends.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, March 28.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 Wm IV., cap. 85:

Ebenezer chapel, Rhymney, Monmouthshire.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

FIELD, THOMAS HENRY, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, corn dealer, March 27.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

BOULTER, THOMAS, Cromer, Norfolk, innkeeper.

BANKRUPTS.

GARDNER, GEORGE, Gravesend, tavern keeper, April 11, May 13: solicitors, Messrs Tilson and Co., 29, Coleman street.

JOHNSTON, LAING, Hammersmith, wine merchant, April 5, May 9: solicitor, Mr Lonsdale, Temple chambers, Fleet street.

MAY, ELIJAH, 34, Aldgate High street, draper, April 5, May 7: solicitors, Messrs Mardon and Pritchard, Christchurch chambers, Newgate street.

MORTON, DANIEL, late of 110, Lower Thames street, but now of 18, Eastcheap, fishmonger, April 4, May 9: solicitor, Mr John Bell, 24, Austin Friars.

PHILLIPS, JOHN, Pinner's court, Old Broad street, City, and 5, Brunswick terrace, Park road, New Peckham, tailor, April 9, May 9: solicitor, Mr Cox, Pinner's hall.

WOODHEAD, JONAS, and WOODHEAD, DANIEL, Netherthong, near Huddersfield, woolen cloth manufacturers, April 14, May 2: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street, London; Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester; Messrs James and Hamilton Richardson, Leeds.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

HARRIS, FREDERICK, Edinburgh, wine merchant, April 3, 24.

MACLEOD, JOHN, Edinburgh, coal dealer, April 3, 25.

DIVIDENDS.

C. Tapp, Wigmore street, Marylebone, coach maker, second div. of 1d., any Wednesday.—C. Terry, Shoe lane, quill merchant, fourth and final div. of 1d. and 1-16th part of a penny, any Wednesday.—W. Pearson, Chelmsford, draper, first and final div. of 1s. 10d., any Saturday.—J. and J. Simmons, and J. Pine, Battersea and Southwark, Surrey, manufacturers of prussiate of potash, final div. of 5d., any Saturday.—J. Ball, Salisbury, Wiltshire, cabinet maker, first and final div. of 6s., any Saturday.—C. Sharpe and William Dudds Clarke, Berners street, upholsterers, final div. of 3d., any Saturday.—W. Prosser, sen., and W. Prosser, jun., Pitfield street, Hoxton, linen drapers, second div. of 9d., any Wednesday.—Henry Whittaker, Macclesfield, silk throwster, first div. of 7s. 4d., any Tuesday.—W. Williams, Bristol, builder, final div. of 1d., (together with the first dividend of 3s. 0d. in the pound, on new proofs), any Monday.—R. Currie, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, bookseller, second div. of 8d., (in addition to 4s. previously declared), any Saturday.—W. Campion, Whitby, Yorkshire, ship builder, first and final div. of 8s. 1d., and those who have received a former div. may receive a second and final div. of 5s. 1d., any Tuesday.—J. Campion, Whitby, Yorkshire, first div. of 5s. 10d., any Tuesday.—S. Winn Harrison, now or late of Bristol, mason, div. of 4s. any Wednesday.—R. J. Webb, Bath, wine merchant, first div. of 1s. 9d., any Monday.—W. P. Robertson and J. P. Robertson, London, div. of 6d., any Monday.—W. Cochran, Lima, in Peru, and J. P. Robertson, London, merchants, second div. of 2d. and 11-32 parts of a penny, and upon new proofs, 11d. and 11-32 parts of a penny, any Monday.

Tuesday, April 1.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Bethel chapel, Newtown, Lancashire.

FIELD, THOMAS HENRY, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, corn dealer, March 27.

BANKRUPTS.

BRECKELS, JOHN, 2, North street, Finsbury market, bedstead maker, April 8, May 13: solicitor, Mr T. D. Taylor, 12, North buildings, Finsbury circus.

CANN, ROBERT, Woolwich, Kent, bootmaker, April 9, May 9: solicitor, Mr Bigginden, Walbrook.

HICK, JOHN ATKINSON, Leeds, Yorkshire, carver and gilder, April 14, May 2: solicitors, Messrs Hawkins and Co., New Boswell court, London; and Messrs Horsefall and Harrison, Leeds.

LAGOE, WILLIAM HARRINGTON, Atherstone, Warwickshire, victualer, April 11, May 9: solicitors, Messrs Harrison and Smith, Birmingham.

NORTH, JOSEPH, Hightown, Birstal, Yorkshire, blanket manufacturer, April 15, May 3: solicitors, Mr Chadwick, Dewsbury; and Mr Bond, Leeds.

WILLIAMS, THOMAS HOLTYLAND, Chelmsford, Essex, wine merchant, April 15, May 13: solicitor, Mr C. J. Shirreff, 7, Lincoln's Inn fields.

RADCLIFFE, AUGUSTUS, sen., and RADCLIFFE, AUGUSTUS, jun., 61, Hermitage place, St John Street road, glaziers' diamond manufacturers, April 9, May 9: solicitors, Messrs M'Leod and Stenning, 13, London street, Fenchurch street.

REAY, JOHN, and REAY, JOHN ROBERT, Mark lane, City, wine merchants, April 14, May 30: solicitors, Messrs Trehern and White, Barge Yard chambers, Bucklersbury.

SCHAFER, JOHN, 16, Clark's place, High street, Islington, fringemaster, April 9, May 14: solicitor, Mr W. C. C. Humphreys, 67, Newgate street.

WHITTAKER, JOHN, Swansea, Glamorganshire, druggist, April 8, May 9: solicitor, Mr David David, Swansea, Glamorganshire.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

CLARKE, JAMES, and Co., Edinburgh, printers, April 4, 25.

DINGWALL, JOHN, Avoch, Ross-shire, saddler, April 4, 25.

M'LENNAN, KENNETH, Plockton, Lochalsh, merchant, April 7, May 2.

M'NIVEN, JAMES, Campsie, farmer, April 5, 25.

STEVENSON, HUGH, Glasgow, builder, April 4, May 9.

DIVIDENDS.

J. Drew, Keynsham, scrivener, first and final div. of 2s. 9d., any Monday.—J. R. King, Bath, druggist, first div. of 1s. 9d., any Monday.—J. Hilton, Croston, Lancashire, surgeon, first div. of 4s. 3d., April 10, or any subsequent Thursday.—M. Tomkinson, Kidderminster, linen draper, first div. of 4s., any Tuesday.—T. Benson, 12, North place, Gray's Inn road, and 108, Gray's Inn lane, stationer, first div. of 3s. 3d., any Wednesday.—J. F. Garnett, 1, Wellington street, and 183, Tooley street, hatter, first div. of 1s. 4d., any Wednesday.—T. Pearson, Mitre court, Fenchurch street, wine merchant, first div. of 2d., April 5, and three following Saturdays.—J. Holdroyd, North Moor, Northumberland, farmer, first and final div. of 7d. and one-twelfth of a penny, any Saturday.—M. Atkinson, Temple Sowerby, Westmoreland, banker, fourth and final div. of 2s. 6d. and one-third of a penny, any Saturday.—J. Laidman, sen., Penrith, Cumberland, banker, second and final div. of 1d., and one-sixteenth part of a penny, any Saturday.—W. Fletcher, Birmingham, oil and colour man, first div. of 6s. 8d., any Thursday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

Prices of consols have fallen nearly 1/4 per cent. since our last, and there is scarcely anything doing.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	100	100	99 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
4 per cent. Consols	100	100	100	99 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
5 per cent. Reduced	—	—	—	—	—	—
New 3 1/2 per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Annuities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	60pm	60pm	59pm	60pm	60pm	60pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	36
Belgian	101 1/2	Peruvian	32
Brazilian	91	Portuguese 5 per cents	88
Buenos Ayres	41	Ditto converted	66
Columbian	15	Russian	117
Danish	90	Spanish Active	30
Dutch 2 1/2 per cents	63	Ditto Passive	7
Ditto 4 per cents	99	Ditto Deferred	18

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	93	London & Birm. 1/2 Shares	31 1/2
Birmingham & Gloucester	134	London and Brighton	64
Blackwall	74	London & Croydon/Trunk	18
Bristol and Exeter	83	London and Greenwich	11
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Ditto New	25 1/2
Eastern Counties	21 1/2	Manchester and Leeds	73
Edinburgh and Glasgow	63	Midland Counties	146
Grand Junction	—	Ditto New Shares	16
Great North of England	195	Midland and Derby	110
Great Western	180 1/2	Ditto New	—
Ditto Half	101	South Eastern and Dover	43
Ditto Fifth	21	South Western	80
London and Birmingham	254	Ditto New	12

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, March 31.

The supply of wheat was large throughout the week, with a considerable quantity to this day's market. The sales opened heavily in the morning, the trade continued dull throughout the day, and at the close of the market a decline of 1s. per quarter was submitted to. In foreign we have a small retail demand, without alteration in value.

Barley has been a drooping trade, but fine malting corn continues to be picked out at last week's prices.

The supply of Irish oats since Monday has been very great, but there has been a fair demand, and at a fall of 6d. to 1s. per quarter considerable sales have been effected.

Maple peas are wanted for seed, and the few small parcels have obtained fully 1s. per quarter advance.

Beans supported prices.

Wheat, Red New	42 to 46	Malt, Ordinary	46 to 52
Fine	46 to 51	Pale	56 to 61
White	44 to 50	Rye	30 to 34
Fine	50 to 54	Peas, Hog	32 to 36
Flour, per sack	32 to 41	Maple	33 to 38
Barley	23 to 27	Boilers	32 to 36
Malting	32 to 35	Beans, Ticks	31 to 36

	£.	s.	d.	DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN.	
Beans, Pigeon	34	to	40	Wheat	30s. 0d.
Harrow	33	to	36	Barley	6 0
Oats, Feed	20	to	22	Oats	6 0
Fine	29	to	34	Rye	10 6
Poland	21	to	24	Beans	8 6
Potato	22	to	24	Peas	7 6
WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR MARCH 28.				AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	45s.	5d.		Wheat	45s. 3d.
Barley	32	4		Barley	32 3
Oats	21	8		Oats	21 7
Rye	30	5		Rye	30 8
Beans	34	6		Beans	34 9
Peas	35	8		Peas	35 5

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR MARCH 28.

AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

Wheat 45s. 5d. | Wheat | 45s. 2d. || Barley | 32 4 | Barley | 32 3 |
Oats	31 8	Oats	31 7
Rye	30 5	Rye	30 8
Beans	34 6	Beans	34 9
Peas	35 8	Peas	35 5

SEEDS.

The demand for cloverseed was not sufficiently active to-day to enable sellers to obtain former terms, and the business done was at reduced prices. In quotations of other sorts of seeds little change took place.

Linseed	per qr.	Clover	per cwt.
English, sowing	52s. to 58s.	English, red	50s. to 66
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	60 to 70
Ditto, crushing	38 to 42	Flemish, pale	45 to 55
Medit. & Odessa	38 to 40	Ditto, fine	55 to 60
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb., red	45 to 55
Large	—	Ditto, fine	58 to 60
Canary, new	45 to 47	Old Hamb., red	—
Extra	48 to —	Ditto, fine	—
Caraway, old	44 to 46	French, red	45 to 60
New	48 to 50	Ditto, white	55 to 73
Ryegrass, English	—	Coriander	12 to 18
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed, 24l. to 26l. per last.	—
Brown, new	8 to 12	English, new	23l. to 25l.
White	10 to 14	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	17 to 24	English	11l. 0s. to 12l.
Old	—	Foreign	7l. 7s. to 9l.
Tares, new	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.	Rapeseed cakes	— to —

PROVISIONS, LONDON, March 31.

We have little or no alteration to notice in butter, the demand limited, and confined to small purchases to supply immediate wants, at about late rates. In bacon we have had a good deal doing, and sales to some extent effected, both landed and for shipment, at about 1s. per cwt. advance. Hams and lard sell better.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, March 31.

The hop market is steady, and there is rather more doing for present consumption, owing to the change of weather.

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, March 31.

The supply continues to be liberal, and the best fresh samples are fully sufficient for the present consumption. Ordinary and stale lots are unsaleable.

York Reds	50 to 80	Kent & Essex Whites	50 to 60
Perth do.	50 to 60	Wishbech Kidneys	60 to 70
Early Devon do.	55 to 60	Do. Whites	50 to 55
Cornwall do.	50 to 60	Guernsey Blues	50 to 60
Jersey Blues	50 to 60	Prince Regents	80 to 85

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, March 31.

There was a slight improvement in the demand for the primest Scots and homebreds; but all other kinds of beasts were extremely inactive at barely late rates. Prime old downs mostly sold at previous currencies; but all other kinds of sheep had a downward tendency. The lamb trade was rather inactive, at reduced currencies. The supply of calves was small, yet the veal trade ruled heavy, at a decline of from 3d. to 4d. per 8lbs. on last Monday's figures. The pork trade was very dull, and the prices were 2d. per 8lbs. lower.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 6d. to 4s. 0d.	Veal	3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.
Mutton	2 8 to 4 4	Pork	3 0 to 4 2
Lamb	4s. 8d. to 5s. 10d.		

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday 690	5,730	133	330
Monday 2,660	24,130	61	334

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, March 31.

Inferior Beef	2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d.	Inf. Mutton	2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d.
Middling do	2 8 to 2 10	Mid. ditto	2 10 to 3 0
Prime large	2 10 to 3 2	Prime ditto	3 2 to 3 6
Prime small	3 2 to 3 4	Veal	3 8 to 4 8
Large Pork	2 6 to 3 6	Small Pork	3 8 to 4 8
Lamb	4s. 8d. to 5s. 10d.		

COTTON.

The market has remained inactive throughout the week. American descriptions are freely offered, but prices are without change, with the exception of the 5-16d. per lb. the amount of the duty, the abolition of which came into operation on Saturday last. All other descriptions, with the exception of Bahia, which are scarce, are heavy of sale at a slight reduction. Speculators have taken 2,500 American, and 350 American have been taken for export, and the entire sales amount to 31,990 bales.

WOOL.

THE DISSENTERS' and GENERAL LIFE
and FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY. Instituted 1837.
Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 3 Vict., c. 20; 62,
King William street, London bridge, London; 21, St David
street, Edinburgh; 6, King street, Queen square, Bristol; and
St Andrew's hall Plain, Norwich.

Capital, One Million.

TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS.

George Bousfield, Esq. Thomas Piper, Esq.
Thomas Challis, Esq., Ald. Thomas B. Simpson, Esq.
Peter Ellis, Esq. Edward Smith, Esq.
Joseph Fletcher, Esq. Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P.
Richard Hollier, Esq. John Wilks, Esq.
Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P. Edward Wilson, Esq.

On the return of the Ladyday quarter, the Directors beg leave
to remind their friends and the public that in the FIRE DEPART-
MENT they receive risks of all descriptions, including chapels,
school-rooms, mills, goods, and shipping in dock, farming stock,
&c., at the same reduced rates as other respectable companies,
and make no charge for fire policies transferred from other
offices.

In the LIFE DEPARTMENT they continue to transact all busi-
ness relating to life assurances, annuities, and family endow-
ments, upon the most liberal terms consistent with sound prin-
ciples and public security.

LOANS are also granted on equitable terms to life assurers on
life interests, or satisfactory personal securities.

To all agents and solicitors, surveyors, and auctioneers,
liberal allowance will be made.

By order of the Directors,
THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

Tenth Thousand. 18mo, price 1s. 6d., cloth boards,
LIFE IN EARNEST. Six Lectures, on
CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY and ARDOUR.

"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the
Lord."—Rom. xii. 11.

By the Rev. JAMES HAMILTON, National Scotch Church,
Regent square.

By the same Author,
The Sixtieth Thousand. Price 1d., or 10s. 6d. per 100,

1. **THE CHURCH in the HOUSE.**

"Wherever I have a tent, there God shall have an altar."—
John Howard.

The Thirtieth Thousand. Price 1d., or 10s. 6d. per 100,

2. **REMEMBERING ZION.** To Scotchmen
in London.

The Thirtieth Thousand. Price 1d., or 10s. 6d. per 100,

3. **THE DEW of HERMON;** or, the Source
of Christian Unity.

Sixtieth Thousand. Price 1d., or 7s. per 100,

4. **THE HARP on the WILLOWS;** or, the
Captivity of the Church of Scotland. Addressed to the People
of England.

Fiftieth Thousand. Price 1d., or 7s. per 100,

5. **FAREWELL to EGYPT;** or, the Departure
of the Free Church of Scotland out of the Erastian Establi-
shment.

Tenth Thousand. Price 1d., or 1s. 6d. per 100,

6. **THANKFULNESS.**

THE CHURCH in the HOUSE. A small edi-
tion neatly done up. Price 4d.

Also, **THANKFULNESS**, in 18mo, price 4d.

London: JAMES NISBET and Co., Berners street; HAMIL-
TON, ADAMS, and Co., Paternoster row.

Price 10s. 6d.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES on the
DISSENTERS' CHAPELS BILL.

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THE PROPOSED INCREASE of the GRANT
to MAYNOOTH.

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Causa fuit."—*Virgil*.

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TO the FRIENDS of EVANGELICAL

RELIGION.

DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS—"Preach the gospel to every
creature," was the last command of our blessed Lord and
Saviour. Yet there are many places in this highly favoured
land—many districts in this vast metropolis—where thousands
are still ignorant of that gospel which alone bringeth salvation.
In the providence of God, a site has been procured for build-
ing a chapel in the overgrown parish of Marylebone, where the
present church accommodation, of all denominations taken
together, is very inadequate to the wants of the population.
This site has been procured by the disinterested efforts of a
friend, who has taken upon himself a heavy pecuniary responsi-
bility, by purchasing the lease of a considerable property, in
order to procure a suitable situation for a chapel.

It is proposed to build, on a lease of ninety-nine years, a
plain and unadorned, but substantial, chapel, capable of con-
taining 1,200 persons, with a school room underneath; the cost
estimated not to exceed £4,000. In this chapel it is proposed
that I should preach the gospel of salvation. The parish of
Marylebone is the abode of a large portion of the most intelli-
gent and respectable Jews in London; and in the present un-
settled state of my brethren, in regard to their religion, a
Christian place of worship, where the truth is preached by one
of themselves, may well be considered a Jewish missionary
station.

In these days, when Pilate's question—"What is truth?"—is
asked on all sides, it is needful to state explicitly what is to
be preached in this chapel. It is this:—That the One only living
and true God (subsisting in the persons of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, called, in theological language, the Trinity)
has made a revelation of his will to man in the Holy Scriptures,
which are the sole authoritative rule of faith and practice; that
in this revelation we learn the fall of man, and consequent cor-
ruption of his nature; the wonderful scheme of man's redemp-
tion, accomplished by the incarnation, death, and resurrection
of the eternal Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith in
whom the sinner is justified; and the quickening power of the
Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and renews the heart. Thus the
doctrines to be taught in this chapel are—the corruption of
human nature, justification by faith, and sanctification through
the Holy Spirit. These doctrines are to be distinctly set forth
in the Trust Deed, and the property to be vested in Trustees,
who shall hold the same in trust for the preaching of the doc-
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vacancy by the church, or communicants, subject only to the
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The following gentlemen have been nominated Trustees, with
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Having stated these particulars, I appeal with confidence to
all the friends of the Lord Jesus Christ to help in a matter which
concerns the glory of God and the good of immortal souls, an
undertaking in which we cannot doubt that the Head of the
Church sympathises. This appeal being made, I leave it in the
hands of Him, whose are all the silver and the gold, and in
whose power are the hearts of all men.

RIDLEY H. HERSCHELL.

60, Gibson square, Islington, Feb., 1845.

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TESTIMONIALS.

As the Rev. Ridley H. Herschell has been my nearest minis-
terial neighbour and my personal friend for six years, so I have
sincere pleasure in expressing my entire confidence in his per-
sonal character and public proceedings, and my earnest hope
that he may be generously sustained by the Christian public
in his present effort to erect a new Chapel in a much neglected
part of the Metropolis, and there to establish the public pro-
clamation of the Gospel and the simple worship of the New
Testament in a neighbourhood occupied by many respectable
Jewish families, who may be interested in his ministry as that
of a Christian of their own stock and nation.

(Signed)

JOHN BLACKBURN.

Claremont chapel, Pentonville.

The undersigned is happy to bear testimony to Mr Herschell's
work, and to express his solicitude for the accomplishment of
this desirable object which he has in view.

(Signed)

JAMES BENNETT, D.D.

Falcon Square chapel.

We cordially concur in the above expressions of regard and
sympathy towards Mr Herschell; and strongly desire that the
very important object he has in view may be adequately en-
couraged by the Christian public, and be successfully accom-
plished.

(Signed)

HENRY TOWNLEY, Bishopsgate chapel.

JOHN ARUNDEL.

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F. A. COX,

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CALEB MORRIS.

Subscriptions received by Messrs Strahan, Paul, Paul, and
Bates, 217, Strand; by Mr Unwin, 31, Bucklersbury; and at the
office of the *Patriot*.

The Foundation Stone will be laid by Sir CULLING E.
SMITH, Bart, on TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1845, when several
Ministers and friends have promised to take part in the service.
The Rev. R. H. HERSCHELL will deliver an address.

Service will commence at Three o'clock, P.M.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, WELSHPOOL.

ROBERT WEARE, Deacon of the above

Chapel, implores those Friends of Religion to whom he
has sent a Private Appeal on its behalf, not to close their ears
to his entreaties. Since that case was written, enough has been
received to reduce the debt within £100;

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION. MAYNOOTH GRANT.

AT a MEETING of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26th. It was unanimously resolved,

1. That this Committee view with serious apprehension the proposal of her Majesty's Government to increase the annual Grant to Maynooth College; and that, looking to the circumstances which have led to this proposal, and to the mode in which it is to be carried into effect, they can regard it in no other light than as a deliberate step towards the Establishment of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

2. That this Committee cordially admit the claim of their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen, irrespectively of their religious views, to the enjoyment of every right to which the citizens of a free community are entitled; and they protest, with equal earnestness, against the outrage done to the feelings of the Roman Catholic population of Ireland by the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal Church, as they do against the wrong sought to be inflicted upon Protestants by giving State support to the diffusion of Romanism.

3. That it is the firm belief of this Committee, "that in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone; that all legislation by secular Governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God; and that the application by law of the resources of the state to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction, is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the Word of God."

4. That, therefore, this Committee, while they record their decided objection to the appropriation of any portion of the national funds, whether in the shape of Parliamentary grants, or otherwise, to Nonconforming communities, or to the support of the existing Protestant Establishments, and are engaged in seeking, by all constitutional means, the dissolution of the alliance between the Church and the State, in all its forms, emphatically protest against the endowment of Roman Catholic Ecclesiastical Institutions, as an uncalculated and impolitic extension of a principle which they repudiate as inimical to the civil and religious interests of the Empire.

(Signed)

F. A. COX, } Secretaries.
EDWARD MIAL, }
J. M. HARE, }

Aldine Chambers, Paternoster row.

MAYNOOTH GRANT.

AT a MEETING of the COMMITTEE of the BAPTIST UNION of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, held at the MISSION HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, MARCH 26, 1845.

JAMES LOW, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair, It was resolved unanimously—

1. That the Seminary at Maynooth being designed for the education of priests for the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, the Parliamentary grant by which it has been supported is an application of the public money to an ecclesiastical purpose.

2. That this Committee, objecting, on principle, to the application of the resources of the State to ecclesiastical purposes of every kind, and having, consequently, disapproved the annual grant to the Seminary at Maynooth heretofore made, regard with determined hostility the proposition now announced by the First Minister of the Crown, to increase the grant to triple its customary amount, and to secure it in perpetuity by an act of Parliament.

3. That this Committee view the proposition of an enlarged grant to the Seminary of Maynooth with the greater alarm, because it is, in their apprehension, the precursor of an intention, not yet announced, to proceed to the endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood, and to take the entire body of the clergy of that Church into the pay of the State.

4. That, in offering this resistance to the further endowment of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, this Committee are not actuated by any wish to deprive their fellow subjects of that persuasion of any equitable privilege, civil or religious; that, in point of religion, this Committee, in contending for the dependence of Roman Catholic teachers upon voluntary support, are desirous of placing them in the position which, in their judgment, ought to be occupied by every religious community, and which is, without complaint, occupied by themselves; and that, in point of general education, this Committee claim for the Roman Catholics, as for all classes, a free and equal admission to the literary institutions of the country.

5. That this Committee desire to draw to the subject of these resolutions the attention of the constituent churches of the Union, and to urge upon them the importance of prompt and energetic measures for presenting to the proposed endowment of the Roman Catholic Church a vigorous and effectual opposition.

(Signed)

JAMES LOW, Chairman.
W. H. MURCH, } Secretaries.
E. STEANE, }
J. H. HINTON, }

GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.

AT a MEETING of the BOARD of CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS of London and its Vicinity, specially convened to consider the same, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, and their Publication ordered.

The Rev. ANDREW REED, D.D., in the Chair.

1. That this Board feels called upon to declare its decided disapproval of the proposal of her Majesty's Ministers to make an increased Annual Grant in Aid of the College at Maynooth for the Education of the Roman Catholic Priesthood of Ireland, and to settle the same permanently by Act of Parliament.

2. That this Board founds its opposition to this proposal on a principle of broad and impartial hostility to all grants whatever of public money in aid of religious institutions, as essentially unjust to the community, and injurious to true religion.

3. That the members of this Board, though faithful to the protestant spirit of their forefathers in the Congregational ministry in this city, and the uncompromising enemies of papal usurpations and superstitions; yet, as the equally decided enemies of persecution for conscience' sake in every form and degree, would not call on Government to withhold from Roman Catholics the proposed advantages, could the members of this Board deem it right that any other religious bodies should receive similar votes from the State.

4. That this Board, zealously advocating a liberal education for all ministers of religion, feels confident that if Halls and Colleges, professedly national, threw open their advantages and honours in secular learning impartially to all classes of the people, each religious body, and the Roman Catholics no less than others, could effectually provide for the professional training of its ministers without the aid or interference of Government.

5. That this Board deems the present a most appropriate occasion to renew, confirm, and re-publish the decided protest against the receipt, by Congregational Ministers, of the *regium donum*, which the Board has repeatedly adopted in former years.

6. That this Board therefore respectfully appeals to the Congregational Churches of the metropolis, on the foregoing grounds and principles, for the most energetic co-operation in all Christian efforts, to oppose every grant of public money whatever, in aid of religious bodies; and in particular the grant now in question, as obviously intended and calculated to uphold the entire system of state endowments and establishments of religion throughout the British empire.

ANDREW REED, Chairman of the Board.
GEORGE ROSE, Secretary.

PROPOSED GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.

A PUBLIC MEETING, in opposition to this grant, invited by the Board of Congregational Ministers for London and its vicinity, will be held in FINSBURY CHAPEL, on the Evening of Tuesday, the 8th of April. Chair to be taken at SIX o'clock precisely.

ANDREW REED, Chairman of the Board.
GEORGE ROSE, Secretary.

ENDOWMENT OF ROMANISM. AT a PUBLIC MEETING of the Members and Friends of the BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION, held at the Eastern Institution, Commercial road, on Tuesday, April 1st—

Rev. F. A. COX, D.D., LL.D., in the Chair—

It was unanimously resolved:—
1. That this meeting, conscientiously holding the principle that, in matters of religion, man is responsible to God alone, and that all legislation by secular governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God, records its solemn conviction that all application, by law, of the resources of the nation, whether of public property to the episcopal church, or public money, improperly called *regium donum*, to any class of protestant dissenters, or of public grants to the church of Rome, as contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the word of God.

2. That this Meeting views with serious apprehension the proposal of her Majesty's government to enlarge the grant to Maynooth college, and, especially, to remove it from the annual supervision of the Commons House of Parliament by making it permanent;—and that not only the Act to be done, but the motive which prompts the deed, and the germs of future policy which lie hidden in it, calls for determined and systematic resistance on the part of the Friends of Religious freedom of all denominations throughout the United Kingdom.

3. That, in pledging themselves to oppose this measure, by all proper and constitutional means, this meeting assure their fellow-citizens, the Roman Catholics of Ireland, of their anxious desire, that, as citizens they may enjoy every right and privilege possessed by other classes of the community; and they record their protest against the outrage done to their feelings, by the maintenance, for centuries, of a protestant established church in that land.

4. That a petition, founded upon these resolutions, be adopted by this meeting, and presented to the House of Commons by Sir W. Clay; and that he and Colonel Fox be requested to support its prayer.

F. A. COX, Chairman.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.

AT a MEETING of the BOARD of CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS of LONDON and its Vicinity, specially summoned to consider "the Propriety of convening a Public Meeting of the Independents of London, in Opposition to the Proposed Grant for the Papal College of Maynooth."

Rev. ANDREW REED, D.D., in the Chair.

Moved by the Rev. JOHN BURNET.

Seconded by the Rev. Dr. MORISON,

"That in the judgment of this Board it is highly desirable that such meeting be convened."

Moved by Rev. ALGERNON WELLS.

Seconded by Rev. JOHN BLACKBURN.

"That the proposed meeting be held in Finsbury chapel, on the Evening of Tuesday, the 8th of April next."

A. REED, D.D., Chairman.

G. ROSE, Secretary.

Congregational Library, March 28th, 1845.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, CITY ROAD.

Instituted in the year 1758.

PRESIDENT, Henry Waymouth, Esq. TREASURER, John Remington Mills, Esq.

The Governors of this Institution are respectfully informed that a GENERAL COURT will be held at the HALL OF COMMERCE, Threadneedle street, on Wednesday, the 30th day of April, 1845, to receive the half-yearly Report from the General Committee, on the state of the Charity, and the Auditors' Financial Report for the past Year—to elect a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Committee for the year ensuing, and to elect by Ballot, Thirteen Children into the School, viz., Seven Boys and Six Girls.

The Chair will be taken at Eleven o'clock, and the Ballot will close at Three precisely.

All Governors are allowed to constitute a Governor to vote for them by proxy.

Orphan Working School, City road, JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

1st April, 1845.

Governors are constituted on payment of One Guinea annually, and Life Governors by a donation of Ten Guineas, and are entitled to Two Votes at each Election.

Subscribers, on the payment of Half-a-Guinea annually, and Life Subscribers by a donation of Five Guineas, are entitled to one Vote at each Election.

Contributors to the Building Fund are placed precisely in the same position.

Subscriptions and Donations will be thankfully received by the President; by the Treasurer; at the London Joint Stock Bank, Princes street, Mansion house; by Messrs Nisbet and Co., Berners street; by the Secretary, at the School; by Mr Harrison, the collector, No. 21, Doris street, Kennington Cross; or at the Hall of Commerce on the day of election.

Proxies have been sent to every Governor and Subscriber. Double Proxies are issued as usual, and may be had at the Institution daily from 10 till 1.

THE ENGLISH INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, SWANSEA.

—This case is strongly recommended by the Congregational Board of Ministers in London. Its high claims are so well known throughout the kingdom as to preclude the necessity of specific statements. The Rev. W. JONES, the minister of the chapel, is now in town, seeking Aid for this English Church in Wales, and will feel very thankful to the religious public for such sympathy as the peculiar importance of his case demands. The sum of £800 has been recently paid off. The remaining debt is £1,200.

	£	s.	d.
Rev. Caleb Morris	10	0	0
By Do.—Sir Culling Eardley Smith, Bart	5	0	0
Joshua Wilson, Esq.	10	0	0
Mrs Thomas Wilson	10	0	0
Rev. John Medway	2	0	0
Daniel Edwards, Esq.	5	0	0
Rev. Henry Richard	5	0	0
Rev. J. Davies	5	0	0
C. Vines, Esq.	2	0	0
E. W. S.	2	0	0
Mr Edward Swaine	2	0	0
Mr Thomas Edwards	2	0	0
Rev. J. Blackburn	1	0	0
Rev. T. Lewis	1	0	0
Mr C. Kennedy	1	0	0
Mr G. Clarke	1	0	0
Mr W. Edgar	1	0	0
Mr E. Selby	1	0	0
Mr T. Cross	1	0	0
Rev. J. Yockney	1	0	0
Joseph Curling, Esq.	1	0	0
J. E. Spicer, Esq.	1	0	0
W. Flanders, Esq.	1	0	0

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THE Committee feel it very important that the first printed List of Subscriptions to the Educational Society at Dumpton Hall, should be well sustained; and therefore they hope to be excused in urging all friends who intend to contribute, to add their names to those already given at their earliest convenience. Also to remind, that rent and taxes, desks, forms, and all school fittings, being free of charge, together with the services of secretary and collector, the whole of the subscriptions will be directly applied to the Education of the Sons and Orphans of Dissenting Ministers, without any sectarian preference or distinction. By this desideratum, the Institution will be conducted at nearly half what would otherwise have been the necessary expenditure.

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